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Bipartisan bill keeps weapons away from people in crisis *SB 719 protects people experiencing crisis from suicide or harming others*

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed bipartisan, common-sense legislation today that will save lives by keeping deadly weapons away from people at risk of harming themselves or others.

Senate Bill 719 is a measure to prevent suicide and other harmful behavior, similar to Washington’s Extreme Risk Protection Order – a ballot measure that passed statewide with about 70 percent of the vote last November. It allows a process for obtaining an Extreme Risk Protective Order that keeps deadly weapons away from a person whom the court finds to be at imminent risk – or risk in the near future – of suicide or being a danger to others.

“Extreme Risk Protective Orders will save lives by keeping guns away from people at risk of harming themselves or others,” said Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), who co-sponsored the bill with Sen. Brian Boquist (R-Dallas). “The suicide rate among veterans is alarming, with an average of 20 veterans each day dying from suicide, often by gunshot. By identifying signs that a person may be suffering trauma and temporarily separating them from their firearms, we can effectively protect veterans and others in crisis so that they can get the help they need.”

Under the bill, a peace officer, family member or household member may petition the court for an Extreme Risk Protective Order. At the initial hearing, the petitioner must prove by a clear and convincing standard that the order should be put in place. If the order has been put in place, the person who has received the order has 30 days to request a hearing to rescind the order.

Once a protective order has been issued by the court, the person in question is required to temporarily surrender deadly weapons and any concealed handgun license they may have. The

bill also creates a Class A misdemeanor for violating the order or for filing the order under false pretenses.

Senate Bill 719 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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