



Children First for Oregon

Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991

March 25, 2015

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Prozanski and Senators,

Children First for Oregon's mission is to make long-term systemic change by advocating for the adoption of policies and programs that strengthen families and keep children healthy and safe. It is in line with that mission that I ask you to support Senate Bill 525.

Domestic violence profoundly affects children. It is why the Legislature has added enhancement factors for crimes that are committed in the presence of a child. In addition to domestic violence being a major family stressor and a factor facing abused or neglected children, it is life-threatening to them. The federal government has recognized the tie that firearms have to domestic violence. SB 525 places federal firearms prohibitions into Oregon law to help to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

In the ten years ending in 2013 in Oregon, guns were responsible for 27% of fatalities of 18 and 19 year olds, and 15% of child deaths between the ages of 0 and 17. The risk of a homicide in a home with a history of domestic violence is 20 times higher if the perpetrator has access to a gun. Oregon has no law prohibiting possession by domestic violence offenders. It is simply unacceptable that children be put in increased danger when adding the provisions of SB 525 could help to offer them additional protection.

Please vote 'yes' on Senate Bill 525 and help us protect Oregon's kids.

Sincerely,

Tonia Hunt
Executive Director