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Date: March 25, 2015

To: Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Carla C. Piluso, State Representative, House District 50

RE: Senate Bill 525

Good afternoon, Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Carla C. Piluso and I am the Representative from House District 50, which includes Gresham and a small portion of SE Portland.

I am here to speak on behalf of SB 525, which will go a long way in protecting women and children who are, or will, experience violence in the home.

Many of you know I worked in law enforcement for 30 years with the Gresham Police Department and was honored to serve as Police Chief for my last six years. During my time in law enforcement I worked on cases involving murder, rape, child abuse, and domestic violence. The domestic violence cases had a profound impact on me and I knew I wanted to do more to protect the women and children that find themselves facing domestic violence.

In the early 90's I secured a \$750,000 federal grant and formed a special unit in Gresham dedicated solely to investigating domestic violence crimes. I wanted to make sure that not only were there trained detectives in the unit to put criminals behind bars, but advocates who could help victims recover from their abuse and bring their attackers to justice. Many of the cases I worked on are chilling, and could have ended very differently if there had been more proactive protections included in restraining orders.

Just because a restraining order is in place, does not mean victims are guaranteed protection from their abuser. If a weapon is within reach of an abuser, the risk of homicidal violence is extreme. That is why SB 525 is needed. SB 525 will save lives, I urge you all to support this bill.

Thank you,

Carla C. Piluso
State Representative
House District 50