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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2776A

May 19, 2015
Senate Judiciary Committee
8:30 AM, Room 343

Chair Prozanski and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am Kathleen Taylor, State Representative for District 41, which encompasses Milwaukie, Oak Grove and portions of Southeast Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about HB 2776A, which establishes temporary, emergency protective orders for victims of domestic violence. Thank you, too, to Representative Julie Parrish for her work on this issue.

Earlier in the session, every legislator received via email the report from the Oregon Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and their recommendations. First on the list of recommendations to improve the safety provided by restraining orders is enacting an emergency protection order law, like the one we are dealing with today.

HB 2776A provides law enforcement with the capacity to seek an immediate, temporary no-contact order from a judge on a 24 hour basis; it automatically expires in seven days. We had a group of technical experts craft the language in this bill. Law enforcement helped make sure the mechanics of this process would work statewide. We also had input from domestic violence prevention advocates and defense attorneys.

I just want to highlight a few shocking statistics:

Nine percent (about 78,000) of Oregon women reported being physical assaulted by an intimate partner in the past five years.

During JUST ONE DAY in Sept of 2013, 1,187 victims were served by local domestic violence programs in Oregon.

Domestic violence has tragic results. And just to be clear... It's not only the persons involved in the altercations that are at risk. Children, other family members and law officers are endangered.

HB 2776A is just one small, but necessary, tool to help better protect the victims of domestic violence. It has the support of both the domestic violence and law enforcement communities.

It passed the House with no opposition. I urge you support for HB 2776A.