



**Center Against  
Rape and  
Domestic Violence**

May 29, 2015

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**House Judiciary Committee  
Support for SB 525B**

**Chair Barker, Co-Chairs Olson and Williamson, Members of the  
Committee:**

I am Cybil Stockman, Residential Services Manager at the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV). CARDV provides services and support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Linn and Benton Counties. I am writing to express my support for SB 525B, which would codify in Oregon law the federal firearms prohibitions applicable to adjudicated domestic violence offenders.

It is well-documented that firearms and domestic violence are a dangerous combination. There are approximately 28 deaths due to domestic violence every year in Oregon, and more than 60% of those fatalities are by gun. CARDV administers a danger assessment which asks survivors if they have been threatened with a weapon by the perpetrator. Survivors regularly tell us they have had guns pointed at them by their abusive partner. One survivor told us she felt it was a miracle he had never pulled the trigger. She had a restraining order against the person.

Federal law has long prohibited possession of firearms by domestic violence perpetrators subject to a restraining order that has been upheld after a hearing, or convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense. But without a parallel state law, enforcement and implementation of these protections is virtually impossible.

Oregon should join other states in taking steps to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable citizens. Passage of SB 525B will ensure that Oregon law enforcement agencies and district attorneys will have important tools to protect vulnerable victims from lethal domestic violence. Studies show that local implementation of these protections helps to reduce domestic violence fatalities.

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[www.cardv.org](http://www.cardv.org)





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We urge your support of this important bill to protect victims, their children, and our communities.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Cybil Stockman

Residential Services Manager

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