



Children First for Oregon

Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991

From the Desk of
Representative
Andy Olson

June 5, 2015

Representatives,

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 525B-Engrossed.

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 525B places federal firearms prohibitions into Oregon law, allowing local law enforcement to help protect our most vulnerable citizens.

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 525B could help to offer them additional protection.

Senate Bill 525B is an important step in protecting Oregon's kids from gun violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt".

Tonia Hunt

Executive Director