



**Oregon Crime Victims Law Center**  
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**From the Desk  
of  
Rep. Evans**

June 4, 2015

Support for SB 525B

Dear Representatives:

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. In Portland last year three women were shot and killed by their husbands or ex-husbands, and this year already another woman has been murdered by her husband.

As a nonprofit providing free legal services to victims, we see a large number of domestic violence victims seeking restraining orders against their partners or former partners. These victims are often terrified, and for good reason. They endure threats, stalking, on-line harassment, and more, and it's not uncommon for these victims to tell us that their abuser also owns firearms. The threat to them is real, but there is something that can be done about it. 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. It is time to enact a parallel state law.

We are asking that Oregon 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.

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

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Rosemary W. Brewer  
Legal Director