



FROM THE OFFICE OF

ANN LINGER

Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women



Protect Domestic Violence Victims from Firearm Violence SB 525-B

Every year, *on average*, twenty-nine Oregonians are killed in domestic violence incidents. This is more than 2 deaths per month across the state.

- These deaths include women, men, and children.
- During this time, 31 out of 36 counties suffered a loss of life due to domestic violence.
- Domestic violence accounts for one in four of all Oregon violent deaths.

Guns are dangerous in the hands of domestic violence abusers:

- Guns are used as a tool of manipulation, threat, and coercion in the most serious domestic violence cases.
- More than 60% of domestic violence deaths in Oregon every year are by firearm.

Since the mid-1990s, the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has prohibited the possession of firearms by domestic violence offenders who are:

- Convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence between family members; *or*
- Subject to a restraining order between intimate partners that has been upheld after a hearing.

Oregon currently has no state law mirroring the federal law, making it difficult to protect victims and hold batterers accountable:

- Without an Oregon law, state law enforcement agencies have limited authority, and local prosecutors and courts have no jurisdiction.
- Federal agencies, prosecutors and courts do not have the capacity or reach to prioritize and respond to domestic violence cases in local communities across the state.

Oregon is behind other states:

- 19 states + DC prohibit possession by offenders convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors.
- 23 states + DC prohibit possession by offenders subject to restraining orders.

SB 525B will mirror the provisions of federal law and codify it in Oregon statute, providing clear and specific local authority for law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts to provide protection for victims in Oregon.

- This bill is reasonable, narrowly tailored, and effective.
- Multiple studies have shown that passage of these laws leads to a reduction in domestic violence fatalities.

Vote Yes on SB 525B

