

From the Desk of  
Representative  
Andy Olson

## **Yes on SB 525-B**

**The Oregon Department of Justice respectfully urges your Aye vote in support of SB 525B, to help Oregon law enforcement agencies and district attorneys protect victims of domestic abuse from firearm violence.**

### **Statistics show that guns and domestic violence are a dangerous combination:**

- In an average year, around 20% of all homicides are related to domestic violence. Approximately 2/3rds of those homicides involve the use of a firearm.
- Nationwide, the risk of homicide is 20 times higher in homes where there is both an established history of domestic violence and ready access to guns.
- Research shows that domestic abusers who possess guns tend to use them as part of their pattern of abuse – as a ready threat of further violence and as a tool for psychological control and mistreatment.
- Many victims live under the constant shadow of firearm related violence against themselves and their children.

### **Federal law has since the mid-1990's prohibited adjudicated domestic violence abusers from possessing guns and ammunition if:**

- Convicted of certain crimes of domestic violence; *or*
- Subject to qualifying restraining order that has been upheld after a hearing at which the respondent has had the opportunity to be heard.

### **Federal protections are not codified in Oregon law, leaving Oregon courts:**

- Without the specific statutory authority to implement these protections,
- Unable to consistently protect victims or hold abusers accountable for violations.

### **SB 525B will close this gap, codifying federal law in Oregon statute and providing Oregon law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts the tools they need to:**

- Protect the lives of victims of domestic violence;
- Hold offenders accountable.

**Protect Domestic Violence Victims from Firearm Violence**

**Common-Sense Legislation Mirroring Federal law**

**Yes on SB 525B**