



April 17, 2017

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Children First for Oregon is the primary source for data on the wellbeing of Oregon's 860,000 kids. Our program, United for Kids, works with partners like the Oregon Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety, to make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

Domestic violence harms too many Oregon families. By passing SB 797, which extends domestic violence protections and closes the Charleston Loophole, the Oregon legislature can close a loophole that often allows these cases to come to tragic conclusions. The evidence shows that in domestic violence settings the probability of the mother being killed increases 5-fold if the abuser had access to firearms¹. In 2013, 34 Oregonians, were killed in episodes of domestic violence—63% of them by guns, with 83% of the perpetrators committing suicide by gun.²

To protect children in homes with recorded incidences of abuse and all other victims of domestic abuse, Oregon law should keep firearms out of the perpetrators of domestic abuse, regardless of how they define their relationship with those that they have abused. An extension of domestic violence protections can ensure that guns stay out of the hands of those adults statistically more likely to harm their families.

Closing the Charleston Loophole would also improve the wellbeing of Oregon's children. A completed background check is a prerequisite for working in schools, nonprofits serving children, and a myriad of other children-related positions. This common prerequisite should be required before a dealer can sell a firearm, a device that contributed to the death of 51 Oregon children from 2006 to 2010.³

Children First for Oregon asks you to support SB 797 and ensure that Oregon's laws promote the safety and wellbeing of its families and children.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregon's kids.

Sincerely,

Tonia Hunt
Executive Director
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¹ J.C. Campbell, D. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, et. al., Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study, 93 AMER. J. OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1089-97 (2003).

² National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <http://ncadv.org/files/Oregon.pdf>

³ Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety, available at: http://www.oregonallianceforgunsafety.org/quick_email_cap