



February 6, 2018

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for House Bill 4145.

Limiting protections against firearm violence by known stalkers to women in spousal relationships represents yet another example of a gender gap. Stalkers should not be able to possess firearms if they are dating or living in the same household with a woman, but cannot if they are married to their victims.

There is a key difference in the violence committed against women and men in the United States. Women are much more likely to be victimized by people they know, while men are more likely to be victims of violent crime at the hands of strangers. Between 2003 and 2012, 65 percent of female violent crime victims were targeted by someone they knew; only 34 percent of male violent crime victims knew their attackers. Intimate partners make up the majority of known assailants. During the same time period, 34 percent of all women murdered were killed by a male intimate partner, compared to the only 2.5 percent of male murder victims killed by a female intimate partner.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, according to a study by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research,<sup>2</sup> having a gun in the house increases the risk of intimate-partner homicide by eight times compared with households without guns — and 20-fold when there is a history of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/reports/2014/06/18/91998/women-under-the-gun/>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/IPV\\_Guns.pdf](https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/IPV_Guns.pdf)