



**Carla C. Piluso**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 50  
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Date: Feb 7, 2018  
To: Chair Hoyle and Members of the House Committee on Rules  
From: Carla C. Piluso, State Representative, House District 50  
RE: House Bill 4145

For the record my name is Carla Piluso, I proudly represent House District 50, the City of Gresham and a small parcel of SE Portland.

I am honored to speak on behalf of HB 4145, which improves law enforcement's ability to protect women and children who are or, most likely, will experience violence in their lifetime.

Many of you have heard me speak a great deal about my law enforcement experience and you know well that supporting survivors of domestic violence is an area I am passionate about.

In my 30 years of law enforcement, including 6 years as police chief, I became way to familiar with the patterns of household abuse and violence. I worked on cases that involved rape, homicides, child abuse and domestic violence. I responded to far too many domestic violence calls, each one had a profound impact on me.

In the early 90's I was able to secure one of the first \$750.00 VOWA Grants and which allowed the formation of the Gresham Police Department Domestic Violence Reduction Unit, dedicated solely to investigation the crime of domestic violence.

Many of the cases I worked on were horrific, and could have ended very differently if there had been more proactive protections reducing access to firearms.

If a weapon is within reach of an abuser, the risk of homicidal violence is extreme.

Family definitions have changed within our communities since I began my career; it is important that the definitions in Oregon law that protect family members from abuse in the home are updated to protect today's families.

Additionally, if a person with a domestic violence conviction seeks to possess a firearm, and submits the required background check to do so, it is important that law enforcement be made aware of that attempt so that the proper safety measures can be taken to protect the family.

When a gun finds its way into a family plagued by violence, too often lives are lost. Oregon HB 4145 will keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers and others with violent and dangerous histories. Most important: HB 4145 WILL SAVE LIVES

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla C. Piluso', written in a cursive style.

Carla C. Piluso  
State Representative  
House District 50