

Hello,

My name is Madeleine Garcelon and I'm a proud resident of Salem. I am here to share my story in support of HB 4145, ad to close a loophole in an already existing law.

Three years ago, my beautiful daughter, Nicolette Elias was shot seven times and murdered by her abusive ex-husband. He then kidnapped my granddaughters, who were seven and eight years old, forcing them to walk past their mother's dead, bleeding out body. When the SWAT team arrived at his house, he shot and killed himself.

Nicolette was a loving mother, daughter, sister and friend. She knew she was in danger and obtained a restraining order against her ex-husband. He violated that order, and the day he was to appear in court, was the day we buried my daughter.

She did everything right to protect her children and herself. But Nicolette's ex-husband managed to obtain firearms and he used them to orphan and traumatize my granddaughters more than any child should endure. He took my other daughter Sonia's only sibling, and he fractured our world forever.

I am using my voice in honor of Nicolette, to help protect other women and children who are at risk of suffering a fate like my daughter and my granddaughters. HB 4145 will save other families from unimaginable trauma and loss.

The law must recognize that the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. The 'Boyfriend Loophole' should be closed so that all domestic abusers who are under restraining orders are viewed as equally dangerous by the background check system. The law must stop convicted stalkers from buying and possessing guns.

Coping with this tragedy is surreal. Our grief is never-ending, and our hearts are forever broken. I urge you to bring HB 4145 to a vote and send it the governor to sign into law. Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony.

Madeleine Garcelon