

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
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Testimony in Support of HB 4145 A
Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 20, 2018, Hearing Room 50, 8 am

Chair Senator Prozanski, Vice Chair Senator Thatcher, and Senators Bentz, Dembrow, Gelser, Linthicum and Wagner:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB 4145A. At their request, I am also submitting this testimony on behalf of the Chairs of Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs, each of which supports HB 4145A as of intersectional importance across the constituent communities of the Advocacy Commissions.

The Oregon Commission for Women and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions are committed to the reduction of domestic violence against women. We support strengthening Oregon laws related to the boyfriend loophole and firearm possession for those convicted of stalking, intimidating, molesting, or menacing in domestic situations. According to the John Hopkins Center for Gun Policy, research suggests that these domestic violence firearm restrictions, when they are in place at the state level, are associated with a reduction in intimate partner homicides.

Oregon has had a ban on gun ownership by convicted domestic abusers and stalkers since 2015, but it does not apply to abusers who are not married to, have children with, or live with the victim. Domestic abuse scenarios can be perpetrated not just by spouses but by boyfriends or other household members. HB 4145A closes the "boyfriend" and stalker firearm loopholes, providing critical safety measures for survivors of domestic violence and stalking. It also requires Oregon State Police to enter conviction data in the Law Enforcement Data System and the Justice Department's National Crime Information Center, as well as to notice federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Limiting protections against firearm violence by known stalkers to women in spousal relationships represents yet another example of a gender gap. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence indicates that 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

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make up most known assailants. During the same 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. Indeed, having a gun in the house increases the risk of intimate-partner homicide by eight times compared with households without guns.

HB 4145A is critical to protecting women and children from domestic gun violence and the Oregon Commission for Women, and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge an Aye vote on this important legislation.



Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair
Oregon Commission for Women



Chanpone Sinlapasai, Chair,
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs



James Morris, Chair
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs



Alberto Moreno, Chair,
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