

Dear Senator Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, HB 4145 will protect Oregon families and save lives by prohibiting people convicted of stalking and partner abuse from purchasing or possessing guns. Please vote YES on HB 4145. Thank you.

Gun Violence is Preventable, not Inevitable. I am a family physician and I have spoken to many physicians about the importance of screening for intimate partner violence because it is so common and kills woman daily in Oregon.

Gun Violence in the United States is a CRISIS that threatens the well-being of EVERY person in the USA. We have more guns in the USA than people. I plead with you not to become numb to gun violence. Gun violence has become our norm, but it is totally unacceptable and must stop. Gun violence is preventable, not inevitable.

We must come together with gun owners and NRA members and do all in our power to establish a culture of gun safety and advocate for sensible gun laws and better mental health care. The time to act is now, today, before more innocent people die from gun violence tomorrow. Please vote yes on HB 4145.

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Stalking and intimate partner violence takes the lives of Oregonians every year.

According to the Oregon Health Authority(1):

- From 2003 to 2012, 256 people were killed in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Oregon.
- Most homicide victims were women and children.
- **More than 80% of female victims of intimate partner homicide were killed by their current spouses or boyfriends.**
- Most male victims are killed by someone other than an intimate partner.
- Firearms are a common mechanism of death among IPV-related deaths.

- In 2015, the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention reported (2) that homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for women between 18 and 44 years of age.
- More than 90% of these women were killed by their current or former intimate partner.
- The risk of death increases five-fold when an abuser has access to a firearm. (3)
- Seventy-six percent of intimate partner femicide victims has been stalked by their intimate partner. (4)

1. Xun Shen, Xun. Homicide in Oregon Related to Intimate Partner Violence, 2015. Oregon Health Authority. <http://bit.ly/2Bh9P7a>

2. Petrosky E, Blair JM, Betz CJ, Fowler KA, Jack SP, Lyons BH. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence — United States, 2003–2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:741–746. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1>.

3. Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, et al. Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multisite Case Control Study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003;93(7):1089-1097.

4. [Stalking Information](#)