



February 19, 2018

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

Ceasefire Oregon has been working to reduce gun violence since 2000. We ask you to protect families and reduce gun violence by supporting HB 4145.

HB 4145 provides strong, effective measures to reduce gun violence by prohibiting convicted stalkers from possessing firearms, closing the Dating Partner Loophole, and by broadening the reporting requirements of the Oregon State Police regarding illegal attempted firearm sales.

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

- According to the Oregon Health Authority¹:
 - 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 homicides.
- In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported² that homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for women between 18 and 44 years of age.
 - Over half of female homicides for which circumstances were known were intimate partner victim-related.
 - More than 90% of these women were killed by their current or former intimate partner.
 - Approximately 15% of female homicide victims of this age group were pregnant or postpartum.
- The risk of death increases five-fold when an abuser has access to a firearm.³
- Seventy-six percent of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.⁴

Clearly, intimate partner violence and stalking require an immediate and effective response. HB 4515 will help to reduce death and injury to Oregonians.

In addition, Ceasefire Oregon supports broadening the requirement of the Oregon State Police to notify agencies within twenty-four hours the information regarding illegal attempts to purchase firearms and to report convictions to Law Enforcement Data Information Systems.

Please support HB 4515. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.

Penny Okamoto
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon

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. <http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/stalking-information#fem>

