

February 19, 2018

Dear Senator Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Many years ago, an ex-boyfriend of mine and, ironically, suicide prevention counselor, shot and killed himself. He had been slipping into a severe depression for some time. We had all the red flags of an abusive relationship. It took me several years to realize that, had I stayed with him, he might have killed me, too. I had no idea he even had a gun.

At the time I was with my boyfriend, our relationship wouldn't have been categorized under any of the traditionally-used terms for "intimate partner", and of course, same-sex marriage was not yet legally recognized. So, had he stalked me, I would've had no recourse or chance to obtain any protection for me or any of my family members.

We've also seen, too many times, especially in many recent mass shootings, how a stalking victim's extended families, such as parents, children, siblings and other family members are at a particularly high risk.

That's why HB 41445 is so important. There are Oregonians in all sorts of non-traditional families, extended families and living arrangements who deserve our support and protection.

Please vote yes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Rutiezer

Portland, Oregon

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