

Thank you Chairman Prozanski and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for holding this important hearing. I would like to show my support for HB 4145. My name is Paul Kemp. I'm a gun owner and a father of a daughter.

Passage of this legislation will protect women from gun violence by dating partners who have been charged with stalking and domestic abuse. With passage of HB 4145 law enforcement will have a legal tool to protect woman from abusive dating partners by prohibiting them from purchasing a gun or possessing a gun. Data shows that American women are 16 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high income countries. Data also shows that the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it 5 times more likely that a woman will be shot and killed.

Currently, abused spouses in Oregon have protections from gun violence in that spouses convicted of, or under a restraining order for abusing their spouses are prohibited from possessing guns. However, there is a loophole in Oregon law that does not protect women from abusive dating partners who are charged with stalking and domestic abuse. Oregon needs to protect woman in these dating relationships from abusive partners, as data shows over the last three decades there has been a rising toll of women killed by abusive dating partners. In fact, now just as many women in abusive dating relationships are killed by dating partners as woman in abusive marriages.

Another study of violent incidents in US cities has shown that almost 90 percent of attempted murders of women, these women were involved in at least one incident of stalking in the year before the attempted murder by a dating partner.

Passage of HB 4145 will also provide local law enforcement with alerts from Oregon State Police when a prohibited buyer tries to buy a gun and fails to pass a background check. This will enable local police to intervene before the prohibited buyer tries to buy a gun illegally.

Federal officials rarely investigate and prosecute those prohibited gun buyers from a failed background check. Oregon State Police conduct the background checks (this is known as "Point of Contact"), instead of the FBI, so our own state law enforcement agency can notify local law enforcement every time a prohibited buyer fails a background check.

Pennsylvania and Virginia are also "Point of Contact" states, like Oregon. Passage of legislation similar to HB 4145 has resulted in almost 15,000 arrests by prohibited gun buyers in Virginia since 1989. Pennsylvania law enforcement arrested over 2,300 prohibited gun buyers in 2015 alone.

Passage of HB 4145 will ultimately hold prohibited gun buyers accountable as all the relevant law enforcement agencies will be sharing relevant information about those who “lie and try” to buy a gun. Local law enforcement will also be required to report back to OSP the action they took, if any, in each case. If no action was taken, the local law enforcement agency has to report the reason no action was taken too.

“In addition, I believe this legislation actually has a real benefit to all gun owners, myself included. When I sell a firearm, I want to know that I am not selling to a domestic abuser regardless of whether they are abusing a spouse or an intimate partner. Clarifying the definition of domestic abuser will ensure that these persons are identified in the background check and prohibited from purchasing a gun.”

Oregon needs to enact this law to protect her own citizens, as federal legislators lack the will power to take positive action to reduce the toll of domestic gun violence in all its forms.

I am also asking that both my state representative and state senator to support HB 4145.

Sincerely,

Paul Kemp

My state Representative is Janelle Bynum (D), District 51

My State Senator is Chuck Thomsen (R), District 26