

## Testimony in Support of HB 2013

Good afternoon Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice Chair Sprenger, and House Judiciary Committee members. My name is Amie Wexler and I am here to testify in support of HB 2013, which would grant much-needed protections to Oregonians who are surviving domestic violence.

I am a member of the Oregon Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and have been since the shooting at Umpqua Community College in October 2015. I am also a lawyer and member of the Oregon State Bar.

In a previous position, I worked with students at Portland State University in their Student Legal Services Department. I assisted students in obtaining a restraining order or a stalking order and represented them if there was a contested hearing. These students had a real and present fear for their lives, particularly if they knew that their violent partner possessed a firearm. As they well knew, the most dangerous time for them was when they chose to leave the relationship. And, they rightfully feared that their partner would turn their weapon on them; both because they were now publicly outed as an abuser in the restraining order and, researchers believe, because of their loss of power and control over their partner.

While I was doing that job, there was often no hope for a firearm to be turned over to police if it was known that the abuser possessed one. While Oregon law prohibits an abuser's possession of a firearm, there is no mechanism for relinquishment. This is a glaring hole in our laws to protect survivors of domestic violence. HB 2013 would close that hole and give peace of mind to people currently fearing that his or her former partner could use their gun against them. Oregon has been a leader on this issue before and now is the time to join 19 other states like California and Colorado that require relinquishment of firearms for those people who are subject to final domestic violence restraining orders. These states have a 10-12% lower total rate of intimate partner violence and a 14-16% lower rate of intimate partner gun homicide.

In Oregon, in 2016, there were 37 deaths due to domestic violence. Of those deaths, 19 were firearm fatalities. We cannot allow the deaths of largely women and children to go unanswered. HB 2013 would help put an end to these tragic stories.  
Thank you for your time.