

Testimony in support of HB2013
April 2, 2019

My name is Hilary Uhlig and I have lived in Oregon for over 20 years. I am the volunteer state legislative lead for the Oregon chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

As you've heard, firearms and domestic violence are a deadly combination. The data is crystal clear when it comes to this issue, which is why I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2013.

State legislatures across the country have recognized the need to act and fill in deadly gaps in state laws that allow abusers easy access to firearms, including here in Oregon. Over the past several years, this state has been a leader in passing legislation to help prevent domestic violence by keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and I'm incredibly proud of that legacy and grateful to this legislative body for your leadership.

Under current Oregon state law, people are prohibited from having guns if they are subject to a final protective order or are convicted of either a disqualifying domestic violence crime or stalking. However, current Oregon law also contains a deadly gap -- it does not require convicted abusers and stalkers or those subject to final protection orders to turn in the firearms they might already own. As a result, many prohibited people with histories of abuse return home to their guns either from court or after completing a short sentence. HB 2013 would close that gap by ensuring that there is a clear process for prohibited people to relinquish the firearms they already own.

And we know that this policy is saving lives. State laws that prohibit abusers who are subject to domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms and also require them to relinquish any firearms in their possession see a 10% lower rate of total intimate partner homicide and a 14% lower rate of intimate partner firearm homicide. That means we know this law impacts overall domestic homicide, and not just homicide by firearm.

I urge you to act to keep Oregon families safe and pass HB 2013.
Thank you again for your time and for considering this critical legislation.