

April 2, 2019

RE: Support for HB 2013 – Close the Domestic Violence

Chair Williamson and Representatives,

Children First for Oregon represents the interests of Oregon's almost 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive.

You've heard the figures – almost 2,900 children nationally are killed with guns each year. 1,700 are homicides. Gun violence is the second most common cause of death for children nationally.

While we know about the shootings in Parkland and Sandy Hook, these mass shootings are rare. In fact, 85% of children 12 or younger were shot at home. 40% of children killed by a gun aged 13 to 17 were killed at home.

While research on gun use in domestic violence and its effect on children is sparse, we know abusers use violence. Already in Oregon, it is illegal for an individual convicted of domestic violence, stalking, or under a restraining order from possessing a gun. HB 2013 provides a mechanism so this law can be fully enforced. An extension of domestic violence protections can ensure that guns stay out of the hands of those adults statistically more likely to harm Oregon's children.

By passing HB 2013 which extends domestic violence protections the Oregon legislature can take an important step toward protection children and their families.

Children First for Oregon asks you to support HB 2013 and ensure that Oregon's laws promote the safety and wellbeing of its families and children.

Thank you for your consideration

James Barta
Strategic Director

Together we can build an Oregon where all children thrive.