

My name is Warren Binford and I am a law professor at Willamette University. I am the founder of the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic where law students and faculty provide free legal representation to Oregon families, including those affected by domestic violence.

Although I am still in my 40s, I have already buried five people, including two children, who were killed by guns, all in their own homes—four by guns owned by themselves or family members. Four by murder. One by suicide.

One of the victims was a client. She was shot in the face ten times by her estranged husband.

I have also heard a client's ex-boyfriend unloading his gun over the phone dozens of times in an attempt to threaten and intimidate her. The judge in that case denied the young woman a restraining order because, the court said, the threat of imminent harm was not credible since the ex-boyfriend lived several hours away by car—even though he had stalked her on previous occasions despite that distance.

One of my dearest colleagues is a child sex abuse survivor whose abuser, his hockey coach, took out a gun, loaded it, and then rested it against the bed to intimidate his victim not to resist when the abuser began sexually assaulting the child.

The fact is that guns are used to threaten, intimidate, and abuse women and children. I know this because I witness the tragic stories as they unfold or try to help in the aftermath.

But I am here today because we have the ability to prevent both abuse and murder through legal protections. We know who is at risk, and we know what needs to be done. The research is clear. SB 797 and SB 868 promise to save the lives of Oregon women, children, and men, but we need your support. To do my job and help these families, I need your support. Will you please stand with me and help protect Oregon's families?

Thank you.