



**House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of HB 4145**

Allison Seymour, RN

February 9, 2018

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 4145. My name is Allison Seymour. I am a registered nurse and my professional practice is medical telemetry care at Salem Health. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association- representing over 15,000 members working throughout our state's health care system – from large hospitals, local clinics and public health. As such, nurses keenly understand and witness the disastrous outcomes of gun violence in our state.

That's why we support HB 4145, which is a common-sense measure that takes steps to help end gun violence, particularly against women. In America, a woman's chances of experiencing physical violence at the hands of her male partner are more than one in three, and when a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, the risk of homicide increases by 500%.¹

Oregon should be doing everything within our power to keep guns out of the hands of people who have any history of domestic abuse. HB 4145 helps do that by expanding our current firearms regulations to include people who have been accused of domestic violence or stalking regardless of their marital status. Currently, if a couple is married and the husband is convicted of domestic violence, he would be prohibited from purchasing a gun. However, under current law, gun prohibition would not kick in for a couple who has never been married or for close family members.

As a nurse, I have a moral obligation to promote, advocate for, and protect the rights, health, and safety of patients, and the community. HB 4145 simply ensures that all partners or family members are covered under this law – and not just those who are legally married – to ultimately protect more Oregonians from violence. This is why I sit before you in support of legislation that closes existing loopholes in Oregon gun laws and ultimately keep Oregonians safer and healthier.

As a registered nurse, I strongly urge you to take action now to help protect our community by supporting HB 4145. Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony.

¹ <https://ncadv.org/learn/statistics>