

I am writing to urge support for House Bill 2013, a bill which would require gun relinquishment for those convicted of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and stalking. Passage of this bill will save lives in Oregon. Research shows that 54% of all mass shootings have an intimate partner or family violence component. Additionally, a woman is 5 times more likely to be murdered if a gun is present in the home.

Domestic violence is a major threat to American women, and guns are a prevalent and particularly dangerous component of this violence. Over half of female victims of intimate partner homicide in the US are killed with a gun. But even if they never pull the trigger, abusers frequently use guns to threaten and control their victims; a disproportionate percentage are Women of Color.

Research from www.everytownresearch.org shows that when states broadened their firearm prohibition laws beyond federal law to cover abusive dating partners, the states experienced a 16 percent reduction in intimate partner firearm homicide rates and a 13 percent reduction in intimate partner homicide rates.

Oregon has come a long way in taking a stand in support of victims and survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. While the gun lobby will consider this bill's passage a gun restriction effort, this legislation will put the rights of victims and survivors in balance with the rights of lawful gun ownership. Domestic, intimate partner and family violence should not be a partisan issue. I urge support for HB 2013 and a show of support for all survivors.

Sincerely,

Jill PUNCHES
Portland, OR

Sent from my iPad