



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Jeff Barker
Vice Chair Andy Olson
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Oregon Medical Association
Oregon Health and Science University

Date: February 9, 2018

Re: Support for House Bill 4145

The Oregon Medical Association and Oregon Health & Science University supports HB 4145 as an initiative that strengthens existing gun laws and creates further protections to help curb irresponsible and dangerous gun use.

This bill provides enhanced reassurance to vulnerable individuals, people who have been victims of stalking. This bill also provides additional oversight of individuals who have been convicted of misdemeanor stalking and makes them ineligible to legally purchase firearms. This legislation keeps guns out of the hands of abusers and stalkers.

The OMA, OHSU and its members understand the importance of gun safety for patients and support preventative measures that ensure guns are obtained legally and stored appropriately. Regulation of guns is best treated as a public health matter; the fact is, firearm violence is the leading cause of violent death in Oregon and has been on the rise since 2011, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Between 2010 and 2015, more people in Oregon died from firearm related injuries than from motor vehicle accidents. Also according to the OHA among the 88 children who died by homicide between 2003 and 2012: 61% were killed by a parent (74% of them by their fathers) and 23% were killed by a boyfriend/girlfriend of child's parent (85 percent by her/his mother's boyfriend).

The physician community supports responsible gun use by Oregonians. It is important that guns are obtained legally and used responsibly. We have a duty to protect the health and well-being of all Oregonians.