

In support of HB 2013

Jayne Downing, Executive Director

Attention: Chair Williamson, Co-Vice Chairs Sprenger and Gorsek, and Members of the House Committee of Judiciary:

My name is Jayne Downing, and for the last 21 years I have been the Executive Director of the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). CHS serves thousands of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties.

CHS provides a 24-hour crisis line, emergency confidential shelter, emergency transportation, support groups, intensive case management, and many more supportive services to thousands of victims and survivors each year. Last year, we had more than 26,000 contacts to our program.

I am urging your support of HB 2013 because no one should ever again lose a loved one because a firearm was left in the hands of a domestic violence perpetrator.

In domestic violence, a firearm is used to intimidate, frighten, punish, maim, or murder their victims. Often, in these households a firearm is used to maintain power and control over terrorized women and children. I don't believe any Oregonian can truly have an argument for why a perpetrator of domestic violence should be allowed to continue to psychologically and/or physically harm their family members by retaining firearms used to threaten and injure them.

I have personally witnessed the devastation to families, friends and co-workers left behind in the wake of a domestic violence homicide. I have looked into their eyes and held their hands. I have seen their pain and despair. They never recover. They never recover because it is truly a senseless death.

As Legislators, you have heard how in Oregon 62% of intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a firearm between 2011-2015 (*Oregon Violent Death Reporting System Data Dashboard*). The legislation you previously passed was designed to reduce the devastation caused by domestic violence homicides.

This legislation is a logical next step to keep firearms out of the hands of perpetrators of violence. According to the research highlighted in the "*State Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Laws and Intimated Partner Homicide Rates in the United States*" (*Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2017), the steps State Legislatures are taking to prohibit domestic violence perpetrators from possessing firearms is working to reduce the rates of intimate partner firearm-related homicides.

HB 2013 would protect families in Oregon by requiring prohibited people who are either convicted of crimes related to domestic violence, stalking, or subject to final orders of protection to turn in their guns immediately. It is in your hands now to take the next step in addressing this issue.

Thank you for all you have done, and all you will do going forward, to make Oregon safer for everyone.

Center for HOPE & SAFETY



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence