



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Votes to Strengthen Protections for Survivors of Domestic Abuse, Violence**

*House Bill 2013 strengthens state law, keeps guns out of the hands of abusers*

SALEM – Legislation that passed the Oregon House of Representatives today would strengthen protections for survivors of domestic abuse, violence and stalking.

[House Bill 2013](#) puts into place protocols for law enforcement and the courts to carry out so that individuals convicted of domestic violence or stalking, or who are under a restraining order no longer have possession of firearms.

“One thing we know is that firearms and domestic violence are a deadly combination,” said Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland), the chief sponsor of the legislation. “Seventy-six percent of women murdered by an intimate partner were stalked first. And, according to the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System, 62 percent of intimate partner homicide victims in Oregon were killed with a firearm. Behind those numbers are people whose lives are cut short by a terrible act of violence because their abuser had easy access to a firearm.”

The legislation eliminates the requirement that a person be present in court in order to establish that an order is valid in restricting the possession of firearms. It also establishes protocols to dispossess individuals of firearms when a court has made a ruling that prohibits an individual from possessing firearms. Further, it adds a notification component for victims, if a firearm is returned to an individual.

“What I know is that with legislation like House Bill 2013, many of the cases I worked could have had different outcomes,” said Rep. Carla Piluso (D-Gresham), who spent 30 years in law enforcement, including six years as Gresham’s Police Chief. “Statistics show us that if a weapon is within reach of an abuser, the risk of homicidal violence is exponentially higher. This legislation will keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers and others with violent and dangerous histories – and ultimately, it will save lives.”

This legislation follows on [House Bill 4145](#), passed by the Legislature during the 2018 session, which closed the “intimate partner” loophole in the state’s laws that prohibit certain individuals from possessing firearms.

“I rise today to give voice to those who have experienced this kind of violence, and to prevent another woman from a traumatic, potentially deadly experience,” said Rep. Rachel Prusak (D-

West Linn), who spoke on the floor about being stalked in high school and beyond by an ex-boyfriend who threatened her with a gun.

Rep. Janeen Sollman (D-Hillsboro) spoke to her own family's experiences with domestic violence at the hands of her father.

"My story could have had a very different ending," Rep. Sollman said. "Domestic abusers are filled with rage, with the need to control the situation and when their adrenaline is pumping through their body, the very last thing that is needed in that home is a gun that can be used as a weapon of violence. HB 2013 can be used as a tool to save lives for those moments of uncontrollable rage."

The legislation, which passed 43 to 15, now goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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