



July 31, 2014

The Honorable Pat Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: National Physicians Alliance Supports Federal Legislation to Protect Women

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Physicians Alliance, an organization representing physicians across medical specialties, I am writing to express strong support for two pieces of legislation designed to protect victims of domestic violence by restricting their abusers' access to firearms:

- S. 1290 - The Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act, introduced by Senator Klobuchar
- S. 2483 - The Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act, introduced by Senator Blumenthal

Thank you for holding yesterday's hearing to address this important issue. As physicians, we see the impact of domestic violence on our patients and their families. We treat the wounds and bruises and work to help victims heal, but when firearms are part of the picture there is all too often little we can do but help families and communities grieve. Protecting victims of domestic violence and stalking from gun violence by their intimate partners—*regardless of their marital status*—and restricting their abusers' access to firearms are critically necessary steps, as are requiring provision of all records of prohibited abusers to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and a background check on all gun sales.

Both of these pieces of legislation include commonsense measures that will protect victims and strengthen families and communities. We urge you to support their swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott", is written over a white rectangular area.

Jim Scott, MD
NPA President