



Statement of Esta Soler,  
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## **FUTURES Applauds Introduction of Lifesaving ‘Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023’**

“Futures Without Violence applauds the introduction of the Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023, a bi-partisan bill introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1). We urge leaders in both chambers of Congress to prioritize its passage.

The evidence is clear: we need to keep firearms out of the hands of those who have a history of domestic violence and stalking. And this lifesaving bill would do just that.

Right now, federal law prohibits those who are or were married, cohabitating together, or have a child in common from possessing a firearm if they have a protective order against them. But there are dangerous gaps that this new legislation would address by fully closing the ‘dating loophole’ in federal firearms law, so dating partners subject to final protective orders can no longer legally possess firearms. In addition, the Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023 would ensure that those convicted of stalking are also prohibited from possessing a firearm.

These commonsense gun safety measures are needed to keep all of us safe, especially women. More than half of [women murdered](#) in the United States are killed by a current or former male intimate partner. Homicide is a leading cause of [death during pregnancy](#), mostly from gun violence. And, domestic violence incidents can foreshadow mass shootings. [In two-thirds of mass shootings](#), the shooter either killed an intimate partner or family member, or had a history of domestic violence.

It’s beyond time to get guns out of the hands of abusers. We thank Senator Klobuchar and Representatives Dingell, Jackson Lee, and Fitzpatrick for their leadership – and urge Congress to quickly pass the Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023.”

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### **ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:**

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates,

policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).