



ALSO's Support for HB2541

ALSO (the Alliance for Local Service Organizations) is proud to share its support of [**HB2541**](#), a bill that amends the Domestic Violence Act to provide better protections for members of vulnerable communities. Working to reduce shootings and firearm homicides is at the core of what we do at ALSO and we believe that HB2541 is an essential part of decreasing violence in communities throughout Illinois because:

- We work in neighborhoods with some of the highest rates of shootings in Chicago. Our constituents regularly hear gunshots, so the risk is very real to them and their families. **The easy access to firearms in our communities greatly increases the risk of homicide; most domestic violence homicide victims are killed using firearms.** HB2541 will help restrict that access and provide better protection for vulnerable individuals.
- We know that there is a very close link between community violence and domestic/family violence. Family violence is often at the heart of shootings that may otherwise be tagged as gang or street violence. **We also know that the time after an emergency or interim order of protection has been entered is one of the most dangerous times in the lives of domestic violence survivors.** It's critical that those subject to orders don't have access to their guns during that time.
- In order to combat both community and family violence, we need to make sure that those who have already used violence against their partner can't have access to their guns -- or the ability to buy more with their FOID card. **Illinois law already makes it clear that a person subject to any domestic violence order of protection -- whether it's an emergency, interim, or plenary order -- can't possess firearms or their FOID card. The current OP petition form contravenes that law, and puts domestic violence survivors - and the entire community - at risk by thwarting lawful efforts to take guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.** HB 2541 would correct the petition form and ensure better protections for victims of domestic violence.