

MEASURE: HB 2903  
EXHIBIT: 14  
H BUSINESS & LABOR  
DATE: 3-25-2013 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: Kirstin Heydel

only in Support of HB 2903

Mid-Valley Women's  
Crisis Service



Serving Victims and Survivors of  
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault,  
Stalking & Human Trafficking  
Since 1973

**Board of Directors**

Lori Beamer  
Morgen Brodie, *chair*  
Lisa Cowan  
Amanda Geck  
Sue Hanley  
Jill Hanson  
Carol Locke  
Jean Mattison  
Shelly Meissner  
Vickie Simpson

**Campaign Advisory Board**

Mayor Anna Peterson  
*City of Salem*  
Walt Beglau  
*Marion Co. District Attorney*  
Curt Arthur  
*Sperry Van Ness Realtors*  
Dawn Bostwick  
*Huggins Insurance*  
Alison Kelley  
*Community Member*  
Matt Lokan  
*Bliss Sequoia Insurance*  
T.J. Putman  
*Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network*  
Alan Sorem  
*Law Firm of Saalfeld Griggs*

**Executive Director**

Jayne Downing



795 Winter Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-1572 office  
503-399-7722 hotline  
mvwcs@mvwcs.com  
www.mvwcs.com

partially funded by

CITY OF *Salem*  
AT YOUR SERVICE

**Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Barton and Kennemer, and members of the Committee:**

My name is Kirstin Heydel and I am the Youth Services Coordinator at Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service (MVWCS). Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service has been providing hope and safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking since 1973. I, along with the other advocates from MVWCS, urge you to support HB 2903 so all victims have the opportunity to seek out resources so they can safely leave an abusive relationship.

One in three women in the United States experience domestic or sexual violence or stalking in their lifetime. As an advocate, I have worked with too many domestic violence victims who were not able to take time off work to seek out resources. Victims of domestic violence need a lot of safety planning and resources if they are attempting to leave an abusive situation. This often includes meeting with advocates in person, safety planning, seeking a restraining order, relocating, talking to law enforcement – sometimes seeking emergency medical care. If a person cannot take time off from work when necessary, it is sometimes impossible to utilize or access the resources they need. Even if a person is working part time, the steps to take to flee from abuse must sometimes be taken immediately, or at specified times when services are available, and cannot be put off.

One woman I worked with experienced the horrors of not being able to take time off for safety reasons. This woman had filled out a temporary restraining order herself and a judge granted the order. Defendants have thirty days to contest a restraining order. Her abuser contested it. The contestment hearing was scheduled and because she could not take time off work to show up at the hearing, the restraining order was dropped. This placed this woman in a highly dangerous position. She had told me she was afraid her abuser was going to murder her because he had threatened to in the past and almost had murdered her after a severe strangulation. If this victim had been able to take leave from work, the restraining order would be in place, she would have had protection, and her fears would lessen a bit.

House Bill 2903 would allow someone in a new position at work to leave and seek out much needed resources and not have to fear they will lose their job. All victims in the workplace deserve these rights. Support of this bill would show Oregonians we value victim safety and the chance for victims to try to start living a life free of violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirstin Heydel, Youth Services Coordinator