



**Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance<sup>1</sup>**  
**The Alliance...more than a safe place.**  
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MEASURE: HB 3390  
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H BUSINESS & LABOR  
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SUBMITTED BY: Susie Ellwood

Dear Representative,

I am a domestic and sexual violence survivor advocate at the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance in Southern Oregon. Our organization works with victims who come to us looking for answers and help. Sometimes they are waiting on our doorstep when we arrive for the day, after walking in the dark with their children-- hiding in ditches whenever they hear a car-- frightened that it is the one who assaulted them driving by, come to find them and assault them again. I see firsthand the devastation that violence can cause in someone's life if they are unable to get the support that they need to become safe. Not being able to take time off work to get to the courthouse, or Human Services office to apply for a TADVS grant greatly impacts their ability to live free from abuse.

I am asking you to help victims of domestic and sexual violence find safety by supporting HB 3390, which will allow employees to earn sick time while they work. This will allow victims of domestic and sexual violence to use the sick time they earn to seek safety (for example, going to court for a restraining order or relocating to a safe place) without jeopardizing their economic security.

Victims often stay in an abusive situation because they lack the resources to get away safely. They often cannot take the time off from work that they need to schedule appointments, talk to law enforcement, or file protection orders for fear that they will lose their job.

HB 3390 will help victims become survivors by allowing them to take the steps they need to become safe, which also benefits her children, and her community.

Thank you so much for the valuable work that you do.

Blessings,

*Susie Ellwood*

Advocate/ Administrative Assistant  
Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance

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<sup>1</sup> The Alliance logo is a message of hope brought to us by the innocence of youth. The picture was drawn by a young girl while her abused mother worked with a social worker in Cave Junction.