

Date: February 27, 2013

TO: The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Joint Public Safety Committee

FROM: Melvin Kohn, MD, MPH,
Public Health Director and State Health Officer
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority

SUBJECT: HB 5018 Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Chairs Williamson and Winters and members of the committee I am Mel Kohn, director of the Public Health Division in the Oregon Health Authority. I am submitting written testimony in support of funds for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services in the Department of Justice.

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control released the results of the first national population based survey on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Violence. Oregon ranked second in the nation on lifetime prevalence of women who had experienced sexual violence. This survey and Oregon's Behavioral Risk Factor Survey have alarming findings:

- One in four women and one in seven men in Oregon have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,
- One in six women, has been the victim of forcible rape in her lifetime – 80% experienced their first rape before the age of 25 (almost half before age 18),
- Thirty-seven percent of women and 34 percent of men in Oregon have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes,

February 27, 2013

Testimony of Melvin Kohn, MD, MPH

HB 5018

- Violence contributes to poor health outcomes such as smoking, obesity, and mental health problems that can become chronic and costly across the lifespan, and
- Intimate partner violence costs the U.S. economy \$12.6 billion annually and Oregon an estimated \$50 million per year.

Women and children need the support and services that the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services funds create. These services have been demonstrated to reduce the incidence of re-assault by 70%. Effective services not only reduce re-assault but they can contribute to improved lifelong health for children and their parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services programs.