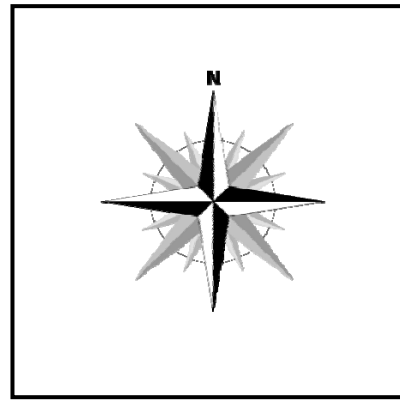


**Patricia A. Vallerand, J.D.**  
**Oregon Mediation & Dispute Services**  
PO Box 50814  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-343-9052  
E-mail: [pvall@ormediate.com](mailto:pvall@ormediate.com)



March 8, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary  
Public Hearing and Possibly Work Session  
HB 2779  
March 12, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

To: Chair Barker and members Cameron, Barton, Williamson, Olson, Tomei and Hicks

I am submitting this letter in support of HB 2779.

I am an attorney and have been associated with the U of O Law School Domestic Violence Clinic and Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center Survivors Justice Center since 1999, initially as a consultant and, most recently (2006 to 2012), as the Director of both of those programs. In my work with the DV Clinic and SJC I have been involved in helping survivors obtain and retain civil protective orders in Lane County. Both the DV Clinic and LCLAAC/SJC work very closely with both Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services to provide legal advice and services to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

It has always been extremely frustrating, to say the least, to have to tell clients who are victims of rape or other sexual assaults that, under Oregon law, they are not able to obtain any form of civil protective order if they are not related to the individual who assaulted them and/or they “only” experienced one assault by the perpetrator. This is a huge gap in Oregon’s legal remedies. One that has dire consequences for these clients.

It has been shown that civil protective orders do have a significant impact on reducing the recurrence of such violence. Women who have been raped in a dating situation or at the hands of a rapist who broke into their home or otherwise entered a women’s “safe” space are particularly vulnerable to being found by their perpetrators, perpetrators who will now want to retaliate against a person who has reported their conduct to authorities or others.

HB 2776 is well written and would fill a significant gap in Oregon law giving protection to victims of sexual assault who do not qualify under the current requirements for Family Abuse Prevention Act) restraining orders (which require some kind of familial relationship) or Stalking Protective Orders (which require two or more abusive incidents).

Page 2  
House Committee on Judiciary  
March 8, 2013

I am not aware of any negative impacts that this new legislation would have on the legal system. In fact, the bill would provide legal remedies for victims who might suffer further criminal violence without this protection.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Vallerand*  
Patricia Vallerand