

From the desk of Rep. Conger

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE FUNDING & SERVICES (HB 5018)

WHERE DO WE STAND NOW?

An Oregon DOJ & DHS study found that domestic and sexual violence victims services programs need \$32 million a biennium to meet minimal, but core service levels.

Oregon's Domestic & Sexual Violence Services fund (ODSVS) is currently funded at \$4.3 million a biennium, or about 13%, of what Oregon itself recommends to keep abused women and children out of violent homes - and off the streets.

DV Shelter & Crisis programs across Oregon are struggling to keep phone lines open, trained staff to handle the daily surge of calls and places for victims who need emergency shelter and safety planning. ODSVS is the reason programs can keep their doors open, the lights on, and can apply for additional funds. Shelter & Crisis Support Reductions exacerbate the impact of IPV as it ripples across communities.

BASIC SERVICES ARE BEING CUT:

OREGON'S SAFETY STRUCTURE IS CRUMBLING ACROSS THE STATE

"Our programs need funding to help survivors and their children get safe, stay safe & heal from trauma. Usually all shelter spaces are full and there is no funding for emergency motel vouchers. And this is before the closing of shelters."

Clackamas Women's Service

- Womenspace in Eugene recently had to terminate walk-in services for victims in crisis.
- Klamath Crisis Center will have to eliminate half of their 16 shelter beds and be forced to cut walk in services on July 1st.
- Illinois Valley Safehouse Alliance in Josephine County recently cut their advocacy center hours to 3 days a week, staffed only by 2 part time positions.
- Yolanda House in Portland shut its doors.
- Bradley-Angle House in Portland had to lay off 7 staff over the last year. The remaining structure is not sustainable.
- Women's Safety and Resource Center, serving Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties, was recently forced to drastically reduce services due to funding loss.

A Johns Hopkins study reports that access to these same services reduce re-assault by 70%.

DECREASED SERVICES = DECREASED SAFETY

- Advocates at the Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service arrive at work in the morning to find survivors camped with their children on the front porch.
- Haven in The Dalles is experiencing a drastic increase in the need for services from victims in Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties.
- Illinois Valley Safehouse Alliance saw a 29% increase in the need for services in 2012.
- Saving Grace saw a 69% increase in demand for services from La Pine in 2012.
- DV is already responsible for 1/3 of founded child welfare cases, and nearly 1/3 of self-sufficiency cases.
- According to Portland police statistics, DV constitutes 33% of all assaults in the Portland metro area.

"An 8% cut is significant when programs have already reduced services and staff to the bare bones—and when ODSVS is already only at 13% of what it needs to be."

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

