



Thursday, February 20, 2014

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Written Testimony in **Support of HB 4143**

The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence advocates for the nearly 50 community-based, non-profit shelters, crisis lines and safety service centers that support victims of domestic and sexual violence. We provide these programs across the state of Oregon with technical assistance, trainings, resources and advocacy. *We strive to give hard earned support to those in and around your district who are doing the critical work of assisting your constituents through their most frightening experiences.*

In turn, these programs from throughout Oregon - including Tribal Communities - provide the legal, medical and personal advocacy needed to help victims of domestic and sexual violence to become survivors. As Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, I am writing today to draw attention to the impact that Legal Aid services have on the consuming economic and environmental burden of domestic violence. Thank you each for your work this bill and consideration of legislation that could have a profound increase in reach.

Survivors of Domestic Violence Rely on Critical Legal Aid Services to Get and Stay Safe.

Over 40% of legal aid cases are already relate to domestic violence, but this is only a fraction of the need. Addressing domestic violence cases early though the civil legal system helps keep children in school, potential victims out of the hospital, and can ease the burden on the criminal justice system.

How much does Legal Aid save Oregonians?

Public health: Safety from violence would save Oregon \$35+ million yearly in health care costs.

Public safety: Domestic violence is responsible for a significant % of Oregon's crimes.

Child welfare: Domestic violence is a factor in more than 1/3 of Oregon's child welfare cases.

Self-Sufficiency: Nearly 1/3 of self-sufficiency cases are related to domestic violence.

Prepared by Niki Terzieff on behalf of the OCADSV