

O R E G O N L A W C E N T E R

522 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 800

Portland, OR 97204

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 376

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee

February 2nd, 2015

Submitted by: Sybil Hebb

Chair Prozanski, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center (OLC), I write in support of SB 376, the Judicial Department's efficiency bill.

OLC's mission is to provide access to justice for Oregon's vulnerable low-income populations by providing the highest quality civil legal services. A significant % of our cases are family law cases, almost all of which involve domestic or sexual violence, elder abuse, or child abuse.

Sections 5 and 6 of Senate Bill 376 would make a change to the Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act (EPPDAPA), which is an important protective remedy for vulnerable adults. The bill would eliminate the current static statutory forms and instead direct the Judicial Department to create and maintain the forms necessary to comply with the statute. This is how the forms are currently handled for Family Abuse Prevention Act restraining orders and Sexual Abuse Protection Orders.

The Judicial Department has convened workgroups to obtain informed input into the drafting of the SAPO and FAPA forms, and the process has worked well to efficiently address the needs of pro-se litigants (both petitioners and respondents), attorneys, and courts in administering and implementing the forms. Important attention is paid both to the substance as well as to the instructions, and the ease of use for all involved. We believe this process will also work well for EPPDAPA forms, and that this change will inure to the benefit of parties as well as courts.

In summary, OLC supports SB 376 and we respectfully urge its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.