

Tri-County Domestic & Sexual Violence Intervention Network

February 9, 2015

Senator Chip Shields and Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Public Safety
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-174
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Fully Funding (\$58.5 million) Justice Reinvestment in the Criminal Justice Commission (SB 5506)

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

In 2013, the Oregon legislature passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (HB 3194) that sets Oregon on course to establish a public safety approach that is both more effective and less costly. That path avoids the need to build or bond for a new prison for at least the next five years and is estimated to save the state \$300 million during that same time period. Passing the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2013 was an important step, but only the first one in a multi-year process to rebalance how Oregon prioritizes its public safety spending. Our success will depend on a continued commitment to new ways of addressing public safety in Oregon through dedicated resources to build an infrastructure of more cost-effective means of crime prevention and recidivism reduction, and to provide greater access to community-based victim services that help crime survivors get safe and rebuild their lives.

As members of Oregon's network of lifesaving domestic and sexual violence services programs, we urge you to **fully fund Justice Reinvestment in the Criminal Justice Commission's budget (SB 5506) at the Governor's Recommended Budget: \$58.5 million.** We know that HB 3194 made a bold move towards adjusting our spending towards safer, healthier communities, and we want to see that be implemented to the fullest. Services like ours – which include emergency shelters, crisis lines, support when accessing the criminal justice system, and culturally specific advocacy – provide a lifeline to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. When survivors access community-based nonprofit victim services, they receive holistic and trauma informed support. This allows them to begin the journey of healing which, in turn, supports their ability to rebuild. These services don't just support individual survivors; they support entire families and communities. Survivors and their children receive the support and resources they need to stabilize their lives. Our programs interrupt the intergenerational cycle of violence. It's an upstream approach, and a good investment.

Thank you for your on-going commitment to improving the lives of Oregonians. We greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Deborah Steinkopf
Bradley Angle
Children's



Rebecca Nickels
Portland Women's
Crisis Line



Teri Lorenzen
Raphael House
of Portland



Fay Schuler
West Women &
Shelter