

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
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Testimony in Support of SB 492
March 18, 2015, Hearing Room C, 1 pm
Senate Committee on Workforce

Chair Dembrow; Vice-chair Thatcher; and Senators Gelser, Knopp, and Rosenbaum:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports SB 492.

Allowing the use of sick time and personal business time to attend to the health and other issues created by domestic violence is humane and sensible for Oregon, and especially for women in the workforce. In 2011, the Oregon Department of Justice reported that, during the 7 years covered by their research, 31% of Oregon women had experienced one or more types of violent victimization, with 14% sustaining injuries. The impact of domestic violence on families is enormous, with 32% of Oregon child protective cases co-occurring with domestic violence.

SB 492 opens already existing resources to survivors of domestic violence as they address the consequences of such violence to themselves and their families. For these workers, having access to their already accrued sick leave and personal business leave for this purpose is immediately helpful and imposes no additional burden on the employer providing the time.

Oregon Commission for Women urges an Aye vote on SB 492 as an important benefit for strong families and intimate partner violence survivors statewide.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

OR Commission for Women

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