



March 25, 2015

KATE BROWN
Governor

The Honorable Jeff Barker
Oregon State Representative
House Committee on Judiciary
H-480 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of HB 3476, which gives survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking access to needed confidential support services.

The statistics on domestic and sexual violence are alarming: according to the CDC, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking in the United States. A key component to addressing this problem is ensuring that survivors have access to safe and confidential support services. Currently, some survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence hesitate to seek counseling or report their perpetrators out of fear that their stories will become public.

HB 3476 helps survivors receive the services they need to move forward by making conversations and records between victims and certified advocates confidential and privileged. By ensuring that vital conversations regarding safety planning, counseling, and advocacy are protected, campus and non-profit community service programs can offer support services that are survivor-focused.

Thank you very much for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

KB/EM/sb

