

Co-Chairs Shields and Williamson:

As the head of Bradley Angle, I am reaching out to you today in advance of Monday's public hearing on the CVSD budget. I specifically want to let you know how ODSVS funding supports our emergency shelter program.

Bradley Angle opened the west coast's first domestic violence shelter in 1975. Within days of opening our doors, the shelter was full and has been at capacity for the past four decades. Over the years, we have moved from a grassroots, volunteer run program to a well-run organization with highly trained professional staff providing a wide array of services designed to meet the need of survivors and their families at every step of the journey to rebuilding their lives.

ODSVS funding is critical for shelter operations. Without emergency shelter, victims fleeing dangerous homes with no other places to go would be at increased risk for harm and even death. Our shelter saves lives. ODSVS funding is used for staff who provide advocacy support to residents and help them move from shelter to stability. Without ODSVS funding we would have to close our shelter doors. We are one of three domestic violence shelters left in Multnomah County (down from five shelters 10 years ago).

We serve 150 adults and children in our shelter each year. In this environment of a critical shortfall in affordable housing in Multnomah County, victims of domestic violence need emergency alternatives more than ever.

Thank you for helping make sure vital services like those offered by Bradley Angle receive funding at sufficient levels.

Best,  
Deborah Steinkopf

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*Deborah Steinkopf, MSW, MA*

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