



Support Survivor Safety (SB 5516)

Fund the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) at \$10 million for 2015-2017

The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund is a lifeline to Oregonians. ODSVS funds emergency shelter, expert safety planning, counseling, and other support services to Oregonians fleeing domestic and sexual violence in every county across the state. But in 2013, almost 12,000 requests for emergency shelter from violence couldn't be met because of a lack of funding. That's almost 2 unmet requests every hour of every day for the entire year. Almost half of these requests came from victims seeking shelter for their children, too.

For Oregonians who are able to access services, there is help. Access to domestic and sexual violence services reduces re-assault up to 70%.

Here's one example of how ODSVS helps victims become survivors.

Program: *Impact NW*

County Served: *Multnomah County*

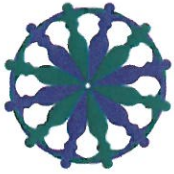
We strongly believe that both shelter and housing services must be increased to meet the need of survivors and their children seeking safety. Survivors should not have to be forced to stay in abusive relationships due to lack of housing options or dependency on emergency shelter space which may not be an appropriate choice. ODSVS is literally a lifesaver for survivors and children exposed to abuse and Impact NW is seeing a growing need for more affordable options that give survivors the ability to become economically independent and break the cycle so their children are not continually exposed to violence and repeat that toxic cycle. We strongly encourage continued & increased funding for ODSVS which we have seen to have amazing impact, specifically with



The survivors and children we've
served funded by ODSVS for our
Safe Start program.

Impact NW warmly
appreciates and thanks you for
your support of this bill.

Gratefully, 



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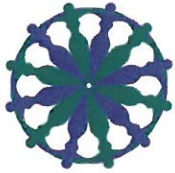
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Program: YWCA of Greater Portland / Domestic Violence Services
County Served: Multnomah - Yolanda Project

My organization currently uses ODSVS funds to pay for emergency advocates that work with survivors and their children. These advocates assist survivors whose housing has been compromised due to DV. These advocates worked over 200 survivors last year using general funds for emergency motels, eviction prevention and rapid rehousing.

An increase in ODSVS funds could allow the program to shift more dollars into client assist to provide much needed emergency services that interrupt the cycle of violence and help keep families from becoming homeless.



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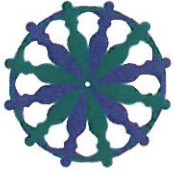
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Program: YWCA of Greater Portland OR

County Served:

Multnomah

The YWCA of Greater Portland has been coordinating with other community resources to best serve survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault for decades. Even with maximizing our capacity through collaboration, we consistently see a lack of adequate resources to help ~~the~~ this population move into self-sufficiency. We implore you to support an increase ODSVS to by \$1.6 million so your ~~own~~ constituents and our community can be safer and more vibrant.



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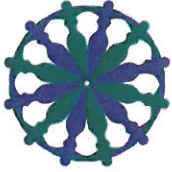
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Program: West Women's & Children's Shelter

County Served: Multnomah

We are so incredibly thankful for your support of the OSDVS increase we secured in 2013. The OSDVS fund is one of our most flexible funds in our work to provide emergency housing resources to over 250 survivors each year. Shelter and site based emergency housing is life saving to survivors when they are ready to leave violent relationships. Many survivors who make the decision to leave find themselves with no where to go as shelters have closed due to the costs related to this service provision. Ensuring every survivor had a safe place to go is essential if we as a community want to end domestic violence. Please increase OSDVS fund to 10 million and secure this resource for the future.

Thank you!
Hay Schuler



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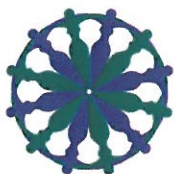
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Program: West Women's Children's Shelter

County Served: Multnomah

If I had not been able to access emergency shelter, I would not have had a consistent, safe place while attending drug treatment & other services while reunification was in process.



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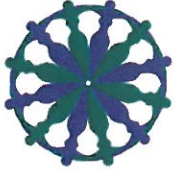
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Program: West Womens and childrens shelter

County Served: Multnomah

I have worked with the West for nearly 5 years and have seen numerous women and families access shelter. Sadly, I have also heard from many who are unable to access shelter due to lack of available space. Additional funding could assist even more women and children find safety and a place to live off of the streets.



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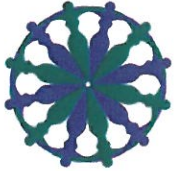
Program: West women's and children's shelter

County Served: Multnomah

I facilitate a support /education group for survivors of domestic violence. I have worked with many women over the years learn skills to avoid going back into the cycle of violence. This is a safe place for the ladies to process their trauma and begin to rebuild their lives. Without funding from ODSVS, this program would not be possible.

Please consider the impact that ~~that~~ these dollars have. We value women's lives, please do the same.

Catherine Caruso



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Program: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

County Served: Yamhill, Polk, Lincoln, Tillamook mainly

(Our tribal members, community members, staff across Oregon)

2014 was the first time our tribe was able to access ODSVS funding. We worked hard to establish with our granters how funds could be used within our unique situations.

In 2014 in general we started our first ever DV/SA program. It's a team of 1 advocate that does it all (reports, direct service, 24 hour crisis line, education, etc.)

Our first try with the funds we were able to purchase medical equipment for SA exams - 1 in 3 native women will be raped in their lifetime so this is/was huge.

We supported healing ceremonies, community education and outreach. Hosted first ever support groups.

But we also used funds for direct service (bus passes, gas cards, etc.)

Our goals this next round of ODSVS funding will be for a 2nd person - to put an entire program on 1 advocates shoulders is not fair, it should not happen... but in rural regions you'd be surprised how often it happens.

Thus why more funding is needed. It's for the best quality services for survivors in all of Oregon.



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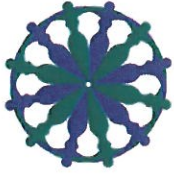
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Program: ODSVS

County Served: Multnomah

My name is [redacted] and I am currently a resident at ~~Westside~~ Womens Domestic Violence Shelter in Portland, Oregon. I became involved with the shelter through being a Resident in the dorm at S.A.F.E.S. (Salvation Army Female Emergency Shelter). I left my residence because I was being verbally and emotionally abused by my landlord. Through the advocate at S.A.F.E.S. I met the Housing Advocate at Westside. I have been had the opportunity to be introduced to programs, classes and housing that I never would have known if it wasn't for the shelter and the wonderful staff that work so long and hard to advocate for single women like myself, and families that left their abusers. This Bill will enable more victims to become safe, independent and empowered. Thank you to [redacted]



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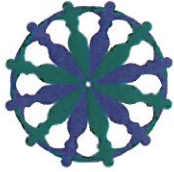
County Served:

my name is [redacted] my 4 children
and I are Domestic Violence Survivors.
my children and I were lucky to
have been able to stay safe while
in shelter at a time when nothing
felt safe. we had no where to
turn and no where to go after
fleeing our home in hopes of a
future. A life without abuse.
So many women do not get the
opportunity my kids and I

got. The beds in Shelter are almost always full. The Shelters have to turn So many women and children away. Many of these women have no where to go, NO idea what steps to take to start over. to become a survivor rather than a victim.

With more Alloted money for DV Shelters many more women would be given the oppertunity at a new life, with the skills taught at Shelter to stay safe. Please support Shelter, women and children ~~at~~ to start over, and be safe.

Thank you



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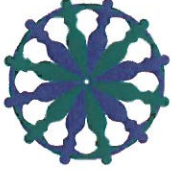
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Program: *University of Oregon*

County Served: *Lane*

Sexual assault and rape is extremely prevalent on college campuses and the University of Oregon is no exception. Students are among survivors that need to access these services. Without emergency shelter, survivors may continue to live with or near their perpetrator, which can be detrimental to not only their education but to their livelihoods and safety. Please put the safety of survivors first. Thank you.

-Rebecca Fuller



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Program: *University of Oregon*

County Served: *Lane*

Students at the University ~~university~~ are at risk of sexual violence, just like any member of the community. In order for our students to have a safe and supportive environment, there needs to be an increase in funding to allow for services to expand and continue. The students at the University of Oregon are investing their time and money to create a better future. Let's make an investment in them. By providing services you would be helping to create a safe learning space, which would foster academic achievement and better the community as a whole.

- Rachel Alm

University of Oregon Undergraduate



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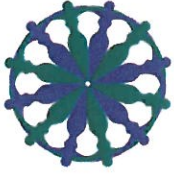
University of Oregon

County Served:

Lane

Domestic violence is a problem on college campuses. ODSVS has the potential to assist students who are also survivors by ensuring their access to safe resources. It is important to consider that ODSVS may benefit students who are at risk of homelessness: Non-traditional students, first generation students, and low income students after struggle access these resources. ODSVS is a lifeline for these students; One ~~student~~ survivor who cannot access this resource is one too many.

-Samantha Cohen



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Program: *University of Oregon*

County Served: *Lane County*

College aged students ~~know~~ who are victims of domestic and sexual violence need these services. Recent acts at the UO have demonstrated the need for these ~~services~~ on campus.

*— Caitlin Cronin
student and survivor advocate at the UO*