

Dear committee members,

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: SAFE of Columbia County which provides a 24-hour helpline staffed by trained advocates, a shelter for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, a free healthy relationships class, a domestic violence survivor's support group and outreach and prevention in many schools county wide. While our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to do the best we can, our shortfalls almost always come down to funding. Would you please fund the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Funds to help us help survivors?

County Served: Columbia County

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