



700 N. Killingsworth | Portland, Oregon 97217 | (503) 287-4117 | www.interculturalorganizing.org

March 30, 2015

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Delfina Andrade. I am originally from Mexico, but have lived in Arizona and resided in Beaverton for the last five years. I am a mother of five, community health worker, and very active in helping my community. I am here to urge you to vote yes on HB 2002, and I would like to share my story with you about why it is so important.

When I moved to Beaverton, I began cleaning houses in order to make a living. I worked cleaning a day care, and had been doing the cleaning there for about 2 years. One day, on Christmas Eve of 2012, I had finished cleaning and as I was leaving, the man who is in charge called me over, gave me a tip for my work, and grabbed me in an inappropriate and sexual manner. I felt very scared and ran to my car.

After it happened, I did not know what to do. Someone I trusted who used to be a police officer convinced me to go to the Washington County Sheriff's Department to report what had happened. We made an appointment, and I brought a community advocate, but they did not let her enter the room with us. When I explained what happened, they began to question about whether I had a driver's license and about my immigration status. They then added, "are you sure that you want to make a complaint because you may not get anymore housekeeping jobs and it is obvious that you need the money." I insisted on them taking the report and even included an account of child abuse I had seen by the owners of the daycare. After, I asked for a copy of the report and they made it very difficult for us to get it, sending us many places and questioning us. When I finally got the report, I saw that my account of the sexual assault had not entered the record. I felt scared and that I could no longer trust the police—that it was the same thing that I tried to escape from in Arizona.

After that, I contacted Marissa Lopez at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC). She helped me to write a letter to Sheriff Garrett to let him know what happened. After the letter was submitted, we met with a deputy sheriff and had to go to the same building where I was treated so badly. He simply apologized, but nothing else really happened. He even joked that the incident wasn't worth the tip he tried to give me. I do not know if there was any repercussions for the two officers or if anything would change in the future. There was no place outside of the department itself where I could go to file a complaint about how I had been treated.

When the incident with my employer happened, I already did not feel safe to report it to law enforcement. When I was convinced to go, I only felt worse. They treated me poorly because I am Latina and an immigrant, and did not take my case seriously although I was the victim of a crime. We need a place that community members can go to report these incidents that is independent, so we can feel safe to report profiling and unfair treatment, instead of having to go to the same place where it



700 N. Killingsworth | Portland, Oregon 97217 | (503) 287-4117 | www.interculturalorganizing.org

happened to you. It is also important that we can remain anonymous so we can feel safer to report what happened.

Thank you for your time. For these experiences that I shared with you, I ask you to vote yes on HB 2002.