



Oregon Coalition

Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

April 5, 2017

To: Sen. Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Rep. Duane Stark, Co-Chair

CC: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

Re: Testimony in Support of Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) funding

The Oregon Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) advocates on behalf of 50+ tribal and community based, non-profit domestic and sexual violence programs. We support your local programs by providing technical assistance, community education, training in prevention, and supporting coordinated emergency medical and legal response to these extremely personal crimes. We strive to ensure that the voices of domestic and sexual violence survivors are heard, and that the experiences of survivors inform both the work we do – and the work you are doing today. Thank you for your willingness to listen to our testimony regarding the importance of increasing the capacity of the ODSVS to assist some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens.

Crimes of domestic and sexual assault create more than just physical trauma. They often require a survivor and their dependents to immediately find new housing, file protective orders, take leave of their employment and seek professional mental health support. Oregon is second in the nation in rates of sexual and/or domestic assault. 37% of women and 34% of men in Oregon reported having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking at some point in their lifetime.

ODSVS funds are used to provide families in crisis a safe haven at a moment's notice. Additionally funds are used to provide expert safety planning, counseling and other support services to victims fleeing domestic and sexual violence in every county across Oregon.

Unfortunately, current funding is only 25% of what is needed to adequately meet the needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors. According to a comprehensive 2006 equity report, compiled jointly by the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Department of Human Services, ODSVS needs \$32 million per biennium to provide an adequate level of service and protection. Recognizing the current budget constraints, we respectfully request you allocate 50% of the identified need which would be \$16 million per biennium.

In 2015, 60 Oregonians, from across the state, were killed by domestic violence. That is unacceptable. Funding ODSVS at 50% of what the state determined 10 years ago was an adequate level, can and will insure a decline in domestic and sexual violence. For this reason and those listed above, we ask that you please support providing ODSVS \$16 million in the next biennium.

Thank you,

Niki Terzieff
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence