

May 4, 2017

The Honorable Chair Prozanski
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance, is a group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women. The OWHWA Co-Chairs support HB 3176A and encourage your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

The Oregon Department of Corrections reports that as of this month over 1,280 women are incarcerated in Oregon; this number continues to grow. Incarceration rates of women have nearly tripled in the last twenty years in Oregon, and we know that many of these women have been victims of domestic violence. A victim may commit crimes as a reaction to their abuse, to escape their abusive partner, or as a result of the control the perpetrator has over her. Therefore, it makes sense to include domestic violence victimization among the circumstances considered when making sentencing decisions.

HB 3176A takes into consideration victim's trauma and helps to mitigate the impacts of revictimization that so many survivors of domestic violence encounter. We appreciate the committee's consideration of this bill, and we urge your support HB 3176A.

Sincerely,

The OWHWA Co-Chairs:



Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward



Representative Karin Power



Senator Kathleen Taylor



Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer