

FROM THE DESK OF REP. ANN LININGER



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

OASSIS



call to safety



The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women, Sexual Assault Support Services, OASSIS, Clackamas Women's Services, Domestic Violence Services, Call to Safety, Oregon Law Center, Jackson County SART, Oasis Shelter Home, and Battered Person's Advocacy urge your support of SB795.

SB795 will ensure that victims seeking sexual assault medical-forensic care have immediate access to a victim advocate in the aftermath of a sexual assault.

- SB795 strengthens Oregon's personal representative law, which gives victims the right to a personal representative, but doesn't mandate that providers inform victims of this right. SB795 would not only require that they inform victims of this right, but would require that they call an advocate when survivors present for care.
- SB795 reduces barriers to advocacy services by allowing victims the opportunity to discuss their options with an advocate, in person, so they can make an informed decision about their care.
- SB795 eases the transition into advocacy services post exam, reducing the likelihood that victims are left to navigate legal, civil, and other social services on their own.
- SB795 will provide victim access to safety planning, *Sexual Abuse Protective Orders* (SAPO), the *Address Confidentiality Program*, counseling resources, *Crime Victims' Compensation*, and follow-up services to provide ongoing support.
- Following a basic tenet of advocacy – victim autonomy - SB795 ensures that victims are told by the advocate that they can refuse services at any time.
- A medical-forensic exam is a critical access point to comprehensive healthcare services for a victim of sexual assault, reducing the long-term negative health consequences experienced by survivors of sexual assault. Advocacy provides complimentary care during this process, elevating the coordinated community response to violence in our communities.
- Dispatching a victim advocate would not delay or compromise emergency medical care needed, nor would it delay or prevent the collection of forensic evidence and documentation of injury.
- Oregon is 2nd in the nation in rates of violence against women where 1 in 4 women in Oregon will experience sexual violence or rape in their lifetime.
- SB795 has the support of the Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon District Attorney's Association, Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON SB795