



February 27, 2019

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House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bill 2750**

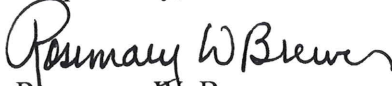
Dear Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center (“OCVLC”) is a nonprofit legal clinic whose five staff attorneys and affiliated pro bono counsel provide free legal representation to crime victims to help them assert their rights in criminal cases and to advocate for them in related matters. OCVLC is writing to offer its support of HB 2750.

One of the many impacts often suffered by the crime victims we represent is acute and chronic psychological trauma. This trauma can manifest itself in many ways. Some, but not all, of the ways that trauma can impact a victim include difficulty in remembering and/or talking about the traumatic event; difficulty paying or maintaining attention; frequent emotional dysregulation; hypervigilance; and seemingly unusual behavioral responses. Unfortunately, these common, trauma-related characteristics are often misunderstood by those engaging with victims of violence in their time of greatest need. These misunderstandings can result in a victim feeling disbelieved, unsupported, isolated, and frustrated with the criminal justice system.

House Bill 2750 proposes two very important components that serve to support one another in improving trauma-informed services to crime victims by law enforcement and other partners who work with and within the criminal justice system: the creation of Model Best Practices under the leadership of The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, as well as the creation of a Model Training Program and distribution of training funds by the Oregon Department of Justice. HB 2750 could greatly improve the experience of crime victims when they engage with the criminal justice system. For that reason, OCVLC supports HB 2750.

Respectfully,

  
Rosemary W. Brewer  
Executive Director