

From: [Deirdra Eden](#)
To: [JWMPS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety
Date: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:41:49 PM

3/6/19

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety,

RE: Support for increasing the Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund

Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety:

My name is Deirdra Eden and I am a member of A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County Voices Committee.

Domestic Violence is a disease in our society that greatly affects not only the victims, but the child victims as well who are witnesses to abuse.

Many people believe that after the victim leaves then the abuse and financial devastation is over. This is far from the truth.

In family court there is an incorrect assumption that the two parties are equal. The truth is that financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases. The person who controlled the finances in the marriage, usually has the money to pay for witnesses and lawyers while their victim does not. She is often without child support and struggling to start life over again while financially providing for the children on her own. Victims are also coping with PTSD and trauma from the abusive relationship.

I have seen the miraculous recovery of women after community and legal support rally around to pull them and their children out of the horrors of domestic violence. These women today are the leaders of your community and the cream of the crop as they work to serve others.

10 reasons to support this bill:

1. While nationally the statistic is 1 in 4 women will experience abuse. In Oregon the statistic is 1 in 2 women will be victims of sexual or domestic assault. This is MORE THAN HALF the female population.
2. In 2015 alone "requests for emergency shelter for more than 10,000 domestic survivors went unmet due to lack of funding".
3. Almost 50% of female survivors are raped before the age of 18.
4. Each year domestic violence cost Oregon \$50,000,000 in medical cost and lost days of work. We have to stop this epidemic and war on women.
5. 1 in 5 Oregon homicides are related to domestic violence.
6. Childcare costs in Oregon are among the least affordable in the nation.
7. Care giving responsibilities and costs push women out of the workforce or into part-time, low-wage work.

8. The wealth gap for Oregon women is among the worst in the nation.
9. 48% of Oregon households led by women with children experience food insecurity.
10. 51% of female Oregon renters are “costburdened” by housing expenses.

I urge you to support a \$10 million increase to the Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund.

Sincerely,

Deirdra Eden

A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County Voices Committee Member

Below are two links which provide the statistics and deeper reporting on what I have written.

<https://nnedv.org/content/about-financial-abuse/>

<https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/count-her-in>