

From: [Michael Wu](#)
To: [JWMPS Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Melissa Erlbaum](#)
Subject: SB5515
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:56:22 PM

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

As a Board member of Clackamas Women's Services and a past Chair of the Oregon Board of Parole, I am writing to urge your support for the \$10 million dollar increase in funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund as contained in the Department of Justice's budget.

This fund provides money for emergency shelters, expert safety planning, counseling, and other essential support services to victims fleeing domestic and sexual violence in every county across the state. The OSDVS fund is the only source of general fund support for these services. A 2006 DOH/DHS report found that to simply meet an adequate level of service and protection required \$32 million per biennium. Currently, OSDVS is underfunded at \$8.3 for the biennium. This means that current funding meets only 25% of the statewide need.

I understand that every budget dollar is important and that there are many worthy interests competing for the same limited budget dollars. However, I believe wholeheartedly that adequate funding of programs like OSDVS saves lives. When I served on the Parole Board it was a tremendous responsibility to hear about the crimes, mostly homicide, that lead to the imprisonment of the men and women seeking parole. While I remember many facts from those stories, the stories I remember most strongly involve domestic violence murders. I remember them because I believe those deaths were absolutely preventable. They would have been preventable if the programs funded by OSDVS had existed. Had the victims of those crimes had access to shelter, counseling, and safety planning I believe they would be alive today and the tremendous havoc that those murders caused would not have come to pass. That is why I am writing you to support the \$10 million increase in OSDVS funding.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Michael Wu