

March 20, 2019

Re: Support of SB 962

The Center for Hope & Safety (CHS) is encouraging your support of SB 962, which will make a tremendous difference for victims of domestic violence in Oregon. Our program has worked with thousands of victims that would have benefited from the improvements SB 962 is recommending.

CHS has been providing comprehensive services to victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties since 1973. We provide a 24-hour crisis line, emergency confidential shelter, emergency transportation, support groups, accompaniment to hospitals and court, assistance with protection orders, and many other supportive services. Last year, CHS had more than 26,000 contacts to our program.

We have offered our crisis line in Spanish since 1991, which is answered by bilingual/bicultural staff and volunteers 24-hours a day. We hear from many victims that have been brought into this country by abusive partners. The isolation and control tactics commonly used by abusers are compounded by language barriers, lack of resources in rural areas, and lack of knowledge of what resources the victim can turn to for assistance.

The ability to overcome those barriers and apply for a U-Visa is often the difference between staying with an abusive partner or beginning a life free of violence. Requiring law enforcement agencies to develop clear and uniform practices will improve long-term outcomes for victims in Oregon. Requiring reports to track the progress of the law will encourage agencies to improve their ability to provide consistent and high-quality services for all victims in need of this protection.

The provisions of SB 962 will improve the safety of vulnerable individuals for Oregonians. We encourage your strong support.

Thank you for your consideration and all your work to make Oregon a better place to live and work.

All my best,

Jayne Downing
Executive Director

Center for HOPE & SAFETY



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence