

Barbara W. Radler  
3924 SW Shattuck Road  
Portland, OR 97221

March 26, 2019

Re: Support of HB 2657

Dear Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am a resident of Portland, Oregon, and I am a member of the Board of Directors of Clackamas Women's Services ("CWS"), a nonprofit organization that provides many services to support individuals and families who are survivors of domestic violence. One of the services CWS provides is a ten-week curriculum offered in over 20 middle and high schools in Clackamas County. This program teaches students about healthy relationships and addresses the root causes of gender-based violence.

Violence is preventable through education. Without a dedicated source of funding, services provided by CWS are caught in the bind of constantly having to respond to crises without having sufficient resources to do more to prevent sexual and domestic violence before it occurs. Our communities do not have sufficient resources to sustain and expand effective violence prevention education. Your support for HB 2657 will change this by funding comprehensive violence prevention.

We must invest in violence prevention education to address the epidemic of domestic and sexual violence in Oregon. The path forward is clear, programs across the state are poised to act, and schools are eager to provide this essential education. A funding stream dedicated to violence prevention education will achieve long term positive impacts on the problems of sexual and domestic violence in Oregon. I ask you to support HB 2657. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barbara W. Radler