



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Submitted to Senate Judiciary Committee
Thursday, April 3, 2019**

**Testimony in Support of SB 606
By Amy Davidson, Crime Survivor Program Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Amy Davidson, and I'm the Crime Survivor Program Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice. Partnership for Safety and Justice is a statewide, non-profit organization that advances state and local solutions that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both.

On behalf of Partnership for Safety and Justice, I respectfully request your support of SB 606, which would establish a Domestic Violence Commission within the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to help coordinate and forward policy and funding proposals to support survivors of abuse.

I have advocated for survivors of abuse in Oregon for the past 16 years, most of that time spent providing critical services to survivors in Central Oregon. Given that background, I know that when survivors get the help they need before, during, and after experiencing abuse, they are less likely to be revictimized. Ample access to services reduces the incidence of re-assault by 70%. In this way, the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) acts as critical support to those who have been harmed, but also prevents further abuse from occurring unnecessarily, particularly for those who are most harmed and least helped.

We know that domestic and sexual assault survivor services are funded at less than 50% of what is needed, and this tremendous gap disproportionately affects some people and communities more than others. Rural survivors experience unique barriers to accessing services, like a lack of confidentiality in an area where so many community members know each other. Travel is another significant barrier in regions where service gaps are common.

Similarly, survivors of color are disproportionately impacted by violence, while at the same time, many feel their needs are not recognized by the systems and services available to them. Three out of four survivors of color will never report the harm they've experienced due to a lack of trust in systems that sometimes fall short of protecting them, deepening disparities and making their voices even harder to hear.

That is why Partnership for Safety and Justice supported SB 5515 to increase funding to OSDVS. It is also why we fully support SB 606, which looks beyond the two-year budget cycle to provide an evidence-based forum, through the Criminal Justice Commission, to take a more

comprehensive look at how to coordinate efforts and address the full spectrum of survivors needs.

As a public safety reform organization, Partnership for Safety and Justice is committed to building a more effective and responsive criminal justice system that ensures accountability, equity, and healing for all those impacted by harm and the criminal justice system. Crime survivor services support is fundamental to this reform, and we strongly urge your support for SB 606 so that Oregon can continue our work in building a public safety system that builds strong families, safe communities, and a just society.