

**In support SB 5513**  
**Jayne Downing, Executive Director**

Co-Chairs Sen. Winters and Rep. Piluso and member of the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety:

My name is Jayne Downing, and for the last 21 years I have been the Executive Director of the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). Our agency serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties.

In my time at the Center, I have worked with thousands of victims and survivors. I am encouraging your support for SB 5513 because one of the greatest needs for victims is consistent and reliable access through the courts to the criminal justice system.

Critical court services for victims include the ability to obtain an emergency protection order, including the Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) Order, Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO), and Elder Persons and Persons with Disabilities Prevention Act (EPPDAPA) Order.

As you are all aware, the most dangerous time for a victim is when they are in the process of leaving an abuser. Timely access to protection orders is critical to help the victim and their children. Without reliable access to orders of protection when needed, victims and their children may suffer serious, detrimental consequences. Safety is the issue, and sometimes lives are at stake.

For the longer term, survivors need to access to safe custody and parenting time orders, divorce and child support proceedings. In most family law matters, at least one party is self-represented. People are overwhelmed, frightened, and sometimes frustrated as they attempt to find, complete, and file forms, and negotiate court-proceedings. Court support for individuals representing themselves is necessary to ensure both access to justice and the efficient administration of the courts. Assistance for people navigating the process through court facilitators and staff can make a huge difference for someone that is intimidated and scared.

In the last few years, our program, in partnership with the District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program and the Marion County Courts have developed programs and protocols to better serve victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in our community. The court has provided a safe confidential space for a Center for Hope & Safety Court Support Advocate to meet with victims, offering the ability to appear by video so victims do not have to be in the same room with their abusers, and providing a specialized court for victims of human trafficking. Marion County has asked for feedback from us, and other partners, to make sure they are providing trauma-informed services to everyone accessing the courts.

This is just one local example of the vital work being done in one county. Please support SB 5513 to provide adequate funding for Oregon courts and judges, and for court-related services, to ensure timely and meaningful access to the courts for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Oregon. Thank you.

# Center for HOPE & SAFETY



*Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

---

605 Center St NE • Salem, OR 97301 • [hopeandsafety.org](http://hopeandsafety.org)  
503-378-1572 office • 503-399-7722 hotline

*because everyone deserves a life free of violence*