

Battered Persons' Advocacy
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The Honorable Jackie Winters
The Honorable Carla Piluso
Co-chairs, Public Safety Subcommittee

Re: SB 5513, Oregon Judicial Department budget

Dear Senator Winters and Representative Piluso:

I am writing to ask that you fully fund the Oregon Judicial Department (SB 5513). Many people understand the role of the court in the criminal justice system, but I wanted to add some information on how it affects our organization and the community.

Battered Persons' Advocacy is the only 24/7 victims services agency serving all of rural Douglas County. The organization provides services, support and education to survivors of family violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking. We have had a formal partnership with the Douglas County Court System for decades. We work with the court systems in multiple capacities including:

1. Providing legal advocacy services and safety planning for over 600 survivors annually accessing protective orders (i.e. FAPA EDAPA, SAPO and Stalking orders).
2. Collaborate on meeting the objectives of our county-wide Family Violence Task Force and Sexual Assault Response Team with over 20 other agencies.
3. Support initiatives that increase public safety and hold offenders accountable while providing supports to reduce recidivism and creating healthier community through the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.
4. Coordinate logistics and services using a trauma informed approach during family court and criminal proceeding.

Without the investment to sustain and improve our current court system hundreds of people including the most vulnerable populations in our community will be unable to access services that enhance their safety. Our courts play a vital role in providing protections for people when they need it most and are high risk of being seriously injured or murdered.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Prummer, Executive Director
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c/c Thomas Maxwell