

From: [Darci Van Duzer](#)
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: Statement in Support of DV Clinic Funding
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:35:33 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you in my personal capacity, and not representative of my employer, the University of Oregon. I want to be clear that these views are my own, but they are based in my experience working for the last several years with Title IX issues in higher education, first as an investigator and now as the Title IX Coordinator for the last three years. I have seen firsthand the incredible difference that the Domestic Violence Clinic makes in the lives of students and members of the larger community. The expansion of services they have recently undergone to provide even more services, to present opportunities for help beyond the UO campus and Eugene, is truly an amazing contribution to this largely rural area.

I cannot emphasize enough that the demand for services outpaces every drop of assistance that we provide. We receive hundreds of reports every year, just at the University, and I know this is representative of the incredible demand county-wide. The DV Clinic reaches beyond our campus borders and serves the entire surrounding areas. Our partners at Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services depend upon the Clinic, which provides legal assistance unavailable to survivors through other resources. No other institution in Oregon, and perhaps no other institution yet in the country is providing the Student Survivor Legal Services that are housed in the DV Clinic. It is not hyperbole when I say that the number of students that DV Clinic/SSLS has served in the last two years alone has been nothing short of remarkable. As a matter of near daily practice, we refer students, families, law enforcement, community partners and experts at other institutions to our DV Clinic/SSLS to both benefit from their services and learn from their expertise.

Our institution is made better for having this invaluable Clinic, and to cut funding to this crucial resource would be doing an serious disservice to the entire community. I understand that funding everywhere is at a critical juncture and tough decisions must be made. However, funding should not be found at the expense of already under-served and marginalized communities, and certainly not by cutting funding for a resource that provides essential safety planning and legal services to those most vulnerable in our society - individuals of all genders and children who have been brutalized by sexual, dating and domestic violence. At this time, in the middle of the national awakening around the importance of fighting sexual violence in all its forms, I urge you not to cut funding to one of the few absolutely vital services that exist in the Eugene area.

The stories that I bear witness to are not mine to share. I will say that it is my strong belief that the DV Clinic/SSLS has been instrumental in saving and reshaping lives. Please be guardians of this institution and those it helps.

I am happy to answer questions or discuss further if that would be helpful to the Committee.

Sincerely,
Darci V. Heroy

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Darci Van Duzer Heroy JD/MA