

May 1, 2019

Center for HOPE & SAFETY

Re: Support of HB 3117A

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am Jayne Downing, the Executive Director of the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). CHS has been providing comprehensive services to victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties since 1973. We provide a 24-hour crisis line, emergency confidential shelter, emergency transportation, support groups, accompaniment to hospitals and court, assistance with protection orders, and many other supportive services. Last year, CHS had more than 26,000 contacts to our program.



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

CHS asks for your support of HB 3117A, which would ensure implementation of the purpose of Oregon's Family Abuse Protection Act (FAPA). Every business day CHS assists victims of domestic violence with Family Abuse Protection Act Orders in our office and in the Marion County Court Offices. We have witnessed firsthand the difference a FAPA can make in the life of women and children in our community.

The relief provided by a FAPA can be vital to the safety plan for adults and children trying to become free of the control and coercion of an abusive partner. Victims are obtaining FAPAs at one of the most dangerous times for them – when they are leaving, or attempting to leave, an abusive partner. It is absolutely critical that FAPAs are not dismissed when they do the one thing they are designed to accomplish, provide protection. It would be tragic for victims to lose the ability to access the safety measures built into protection orders in our state.

HB 3117A will allow the necessary change to the current law to make sure FAPAs continue to offer protection to vulnerable families in Oregon. The Oregon Legislature has demonstrated many times they care about victims and survivors of domestic violence by passing strong laws to hold abusers accountable for their actions and protections for survivors. We hope we can count on your support of HB 3117A, so that tradition of action and support continues in Oregon.

Thank you for all your efforts to make Oregon a safer place for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence