

**To Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:**

I am submitting my testimony today in support of SB 995 as a resident of Oregon and a sexual assault survivor. I am also reaching out in support of countless friends who are survivors, too.

This issue matters to me not only because I want all survivors to receive ongoing legal protection from their assaulter; it matters because I want to see us free to move forward with our lives and *thrive* with the greater peace of mind that this legislation would provide.

Experiencing sexual assault strips us of our sense of safety in so many ways – and when we feel unsafe, it's difficult to do ordinary things, much less grow and excel. I think of what we lose out on as a society and as a culture when survivors are crippled by fear and bogged down by endless legal proceedings – the art that is never made, the books that are never written, the leaders that are never sworn into office, and the tremendous potential that is never realized. With SB 995, I believe we have the power to restore some of the time and sense of safety survivors have lost, so that they have a better chance at not simply surviving, but thriving.

**- Why this bill is important:**

- > Having sexual assault survivors go back to court to renew their restraining orders annually is traumatic. This restraining order needs to be extended.
- > Protecting vulnerable people, children, survivors of repeat sexual assault offenders, and survivors of sexual assault by a family member is important and their protection deserves to be permanent.
- > Seeking out one's sexual assaulter when they are intentionally evading being served is extremely traumatic for the sexual assault survivors.

**- What it will remedy:**

- > It prevents the responsibility of keeping themselves safe fall on the sexual assault survivors.
- > It protects the most vulnerable in the community, especially those who have jobs that do not allow them to take days off to go to court to keep having to renew it annually.
- > It prevents a SAPO from being considered null if the sexual assault survivor cannot get their assaulter served even after due diligence of trying to get them served.

**- My position on this Bill is that I support it and I would like it to get passed.**

**- I support SB995.**

[Link to SB995](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB995) ( previously SB482 ):

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB995>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Emily Jensen