

To Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee-

I'm a resident of Oregon and a supporter of sexual assault survivors. I support passing SB 995. When I was sexually assaulted in December 2017, I promptly filed a police report and had medical exams, including screening for pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Although I was relieved to find out immediately that he hadn't impregnated me, I had to wait another twelve weeks to retake the HIV test to ensure he hadn't infected me. In the midst of the emotional uncertainty for my health, I received treatment for physical trauma from the encounters. Medical professionals documented my chipped tooth and bruises and I had MRI and mammogram imaging to check for further damage. I even had to receive additional imaging to make sure I wasn't high risk for stroke due to the strangulation, where I received permanent vein damage near my eye. I still receive weekly physical therapy for the shoulder dislocation that occurred during the initial attack.

Despite all this, the judge didn't grant the sexual assault protective order (SAPO) because of these factors, but rather because the attacker posted an image to social media of himself with an assault rifle and messages my friends felt were directly threatening me after I mentioned his name on my social media page to warn other women about his behavior. I also felt threatened because I knew the attacker had my home address because I received a cease and desist letter from his attorney to my residence and felt especially unsafe as that was unlisted and I used my post office box exclusively.

Although the SAPO was granted in January 2018, by the end of April, authorities still weren't able to deliver the protective order and recommended I hire a private process server, for a fee of \$98. SAPO's current expiration after one year is not long enough. As my experience showed, the respondent was only aware of the SAPO because I had to spend nearly \$100 to have him served when authorities couldn't connect with him, despite knowing his location. The financial burden to hire process servers is significant and can be cost-prohibitive to survivors.

Within months of the SAPO's expiration, I was informed by authorities the respondent's behavior had escalated and he had already committed more violent crimes, including a similar sexual assault as well as the stabbing of two people, however this time, law enforcement weren't aware of his location. In my situation, even if I decided to deal with the trauma of trying to renew, authorities admitted they didn't know how to find him. I feel this is common for many survivors and prohibits renewal attempts. According to the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, Oregon Judicial Department does not have recidivism rates for respondents who have a SAPO against them. My lived experience informs my opinion that many violent offenders who have a SAPO against them are likely to re-offend and Oregon needs longer protective orders for survivor's safety.

I appeal to this body to make the right decision to extend SAPO orders. The bar is already so high to have them granted, to go through the emotional strain and potential cost of renewal if the respondent can even be found, negatively impacts the healing process for survivors. Please grant us relief and do the right thing for Oregon survivors of sexual assault and extend the SAPO expiration.

Thank you Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Respectfully,
-Emma Burke