

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

I am a resident of Oregon and supporter of sexual assault survivors and I would like to write in my testimony of support for SB 995.

I have two daughters (ages 15 and 17) who have both experienced sexual assault and/or rape in their young lives. It's a traumatic experience and they are both undergoing extensive therapy to rebuild themselves and their sense of confidence and safety in the world. This Bill is extremely important to me because having sexual assault survivors go back to court to renew their restraining orders annually only continues to add to the trauma they've already experienced. This restraining order needs to be extended. It doesn't make sense to put the onus of seeking protection on the victim of the trauma, especially when the sexual assaulter is intentionally evading being served, as is common. Furthermore, it's important that vulnerable people, children, survivors of repeat sexual assault offenders and survivors of sexual assault feel protected and need to know that their protection is long-lasting.

This Bill will do much to help victims heal and feel protected by not placing the responsibility on the shoulders of the sexual assault survivors. It also 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. Finally, 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.

In summation, 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>

Sincerely,

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