



June 10, 2019

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Oregon House Rules Committee

Re: SCR 25 – Declaring legislative support for survivors of sexual violence – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Holvey and Members:

The undersigned are the President and Executive Director of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center (OCVLC). OCVLC provides free legal representation to crime victims to help them assert their rights within criminal and related cases. As such, our clients are predominantly women and children who have been subjected to or threatened with sexual and physical violence. A full description of our mission and services is contained on the accompanying page and at www.ocvlc.org.

Founded in 2009 by Hardy Myers, OCVLC this year is celebrating its 10th anniversary fighting for victims of sexual violence. We've grown from a one person staff in a shared office in downtown Portland to a staff of 5 lawyers working out of offices in Portland, Gresham and Bend and serving nearly 300 clients last year. While our growth has been dictated by the needs of our clients, it has been facilitated by support from the Oregon Legislature for which we are grateful.

We write today to urge the House Rules Committee to vote in favor of moving this important Resolution to the House floor with a do pass recommendation. The measure is a meaningful and timely public declaration of the legislature's commitment to help Oregonians fight the on-going epidemic of domestic and sexual violence in our state. These expressions are important for they show that those of us on the front lines of this struggle have the support, respect and appreciation of Oregon citizens and their representatives. They also underscore that other decisions by the legislature will be guided by these important principles.

Thank you for continued support of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center.

Sincerely,


Rosemary Brewer

OCVLC Executive Director



Erin Greenawald

Board President

OREGON CRIME VICTIMS LAW CENTER

WHO WE ARE

OCVLC provides free legal representation to crime victims to help them assert their rights within a criminal case. We provide this service to all Oregon counties. We provide services regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, religion, class, ethnicity, age, income, or immigration status.

Victims' Rights - We provide legal representation to crime victims to help assert a victims' legal rights within a criminal case throughout Oregon where a victims' rights have been violated.

Protection Orders - On a limited basis we provide legal representation to victims of domestic and sexual violence, elder abuse, and stalking with protective orders such as: Family Abuse Prevention Act, Sexual Abuse Protective Order, Stalking Protective Order, Elderly Persons or Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act.

Civil Matters - We provide limited legal services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, elder abuse, and stalking with regarding housing, employment, and education issues that arise as a result of the crime.

Social Support Services - We provide social-support services. This assistance includes: safety planning, informational support, help applying for Crime Victim Compensation and the Address Confidentiality Program, advocate accompaniment to report a crime or to go to court, help requesting police reports, and referrals to other agencies for issues outside the scope of services provided by OCVLC.

Training and Outreach - Our staff conducts trainings and educational presentations regarding crime victims' rights to the public, agencies, and organizations whose advocates and employees interact with crime victims.