



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
From: Sponsors, Inc.  
Date: March 9, 2021  
Re: Supporting HB 2825 – Treating survivors of domestic abuse with more dignity and fairness

Members of the Committee,  
On behalf of Sponsors, I write to you in support of House Bill 2825.

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

HB 2825 will allow for more just sentencing for criminal defendants who are survivors of domestic violence and for whom that abuse was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime. Many individuals that Sponsors works with come to us as both individuals who have been incarcerated for committing offenses and as survivors or victims of crime. Research shows us that in order to be whole and successful in their communities’ people who hold this dual identity would benefit from more support and a differentiated consideration in our sentencing process.

For example:

- **Oregon’s sentencing laws do not adequately consider defendants’ histories of victimization and the role domestic violence played in the commission of their crimes.**  
This results in severe and unjust accountability for survivor-defendants.
- **Domestic violence traps survivors and their children in a cycle of crime, control, and trauma.** For survivors, it can feel like there is no way out. Prison only continues this cycle of control and trauma for the survivor and their children.
- **A one-size-fits-all approach to sentencing is not appropriate for survivor-defendants.**  
Considering the complex dynamics and trauma of domestic violence when sentencing, is in the best-interest of survivors of domestic violence, their families, and the community.

For many Oregon’s sentencing laws do not adequately consider defendants’ histories of victimization and the role that domestic violence played in the commission of their crimes. This results in severe and unjust accountability for survivor-defendants, criminal defendants who are survivors of domestic violence and for whom that abuse was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime. We urge your support of HB 2825 to address these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" at the end.

Paul Solomon, Executive Director, Sponsors, Inc.