

**March 30, 2021**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee, my name is Shanna Greene and I am a survivor of Domestic Violence. I am here to testify in support of **Senate Bill 497**.

I was raised in a suburban city in Oregon by two college-educated parents, one with a master's degree. They sent me to private schools. They paid for ski lessons in the winter and summer camp in the summer. I was sheltered and loved. I went onto college and got a Bachelor of Science degree and have worked at the same company for over 20 years. My life was solid and stable...until it wasn't.

I met B, a man I had briefly known 10 years prior. He was funny and charming and we enjoyed each other's company. Looking back, there were red flags, but like so many women and men before me, I could overlook those because it was clear how much he loved me. Love means you won't get hurt. After a bit of time, we became pregnant with our daughter and there were more red flags. My world was becoming very narrow by then (abusers know how to separate their target from their family and support groups, until their network of support is narrow).

B had a long history of domestic violence, which I did not learn until later in our relationship. Because B was on community supervision, he was required to report to a probation officer and this is how I came to meet his probation officer. I didn't know at the time that these meetings were laying groundwork through community supervision that down the road would be life-saving to me and my children. At the first meeting, the probation officer explained to me what community supervision was, signs of domestic violence, and supports I had access to through community supervision. I never thought that I would need help, but that and subsequent meetings allowed me to build trust with her and provided someone who I could turn to for help. My family and friends had no experience with domestic violence and didn't seem to understand the complexities of an abusive relationship. I didn't know that I would be reaching out to the officer for desperately needed support and advocacy.

My upbringing had not prepared me for the calculated way B strategically reduced my support network. I wasn't prepared when he grabbed my hair in a fit of rage and smashed my head against the wall while I was holding our newborn child. I was not prepared when he held a sledgehammer above my head, threatening to smash in my face. Finally he strangled me so hard that I thought my life was ending, and for several days later, my throat was so raw that I could not swallow without pain. That was the day my teenage son had to call 911 to stop the violence. I don't know of any upbringing that can adequately prepare a person or their children for the reality of systematic abuse.

I needed the groundwork that started at my first, then subsequent meetings with B's probation officer through community supervision. I needed someone who provided non-judgmental support, referrals for an advocate when needed, and when B violated the conditions of his probation, he was held accountable because he was already in community supervision. The support for me and the accountability for him was absolutely necessary. **Senate bill 497 is necessary.** It is necessary because it holds abusers accountable for their actions, even if their actions are not considered felonies. It is also necessary to provide support within community supervision so victims of domestic violence AND potential victims have access to support and services. I ask that the senators of this committee see the incredible value this legislation provides, so that victims, potential victims, children and families are protected across the entire State of Oregon in all counties.

Shanna Greene

Resident of Portland

