



We provide comprehensive family violence and sexual assault services in Central Oregon and promote the value of living life free from violence.

April 02, 2021

Re: Yes on SB 271-1

Greetings Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

My name is Beth Jacobi. I am the Housing Coordinator for Saving Grace. Established in 1977, Saving Grace provides comprehensive services to survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. We serve survivors throughout Central Oregon. Saving Grace strongly supports SB 271-1. Passage of this bill is essential to the safety and stability of the survivors we serve.

In 2019, both the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women and the National Network to End Domestic Violence found housing stability to be the greatest issue and unmet need facing survivors in Oregon. Passage of SB 271-1 would allow our program, and domestic and sexual violence programs across the state, to continue to assist survivors in accessing safe shelter and stable long-term housing. From the foundation of a stable home, survivors and their children can find safety, stability, and a better future for themselves and their children.

The ongoing crises of the last year have made access to stable housing even more difficult for those who are in abusive situations. Our programs saw a significant growth in calls to hotlines and requests for emergency shelter and housing assistance. During an average year our emergency shelter serves 200 individuals and their children. In 2020, that number increased to 300. Additionally, we saw an increased need to support our clients in accessing and maintaining safe, stable long-term housing.

Passage of SB 271-1 would allow for community-based domestic violence programs like ours to continue and grow capacity to serve survivors who are facing housing instability.

As the growing housing crisis continues in our state, we are grateful to the lawmakers who are prioritizing the health and safety of victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence with this legislation. We urge you to pass SB 271-1. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Beth Jacobi

She/her/ hers

Housing Coordinator at **Saving Grace**

412 SW 8th Street, Redmond, OR

(541) 771-1685 / email: bethj@saving-grace.org

**"I truly believe that each and every one of you are angels and have saved my life."
- Survivor & Saving Grace client**

1004 NW Milwaukee Ave., Suite 100 • Bend, OR 97703

Office: (541) 382-9227
24-Hour Helpline: (541) 389-7021
info@saving-grace.org



SAVING GRACE

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- Est. 1977 -

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