

I am writing in support of a substantial increase in funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) program in HB 5555. I live in rural Clackamas County, and currently serve on the board of Clackamas Womens Services (CWS), a private non-profit that provides comprehensive and innovative services to women and children survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Clackamas County. A \$10 million increase in OSDVS funding would greatly help survivors and the programs throughout the state that provide services to them.

ODSVS funds provide core funding for various services CWS provides, including legal services, culturally specific services, services for youth and children, and advocacy services through the family justice center. Indeed, one of the best things about OSDVS funding is the lack of restrictions on its use. Many providers of funding for CWS place appropriate limits on the use of their funds for very specific activities - for example, CWS cannot use funds from the grant it receives from Oregon Law Foundation for any purpose other than the provision of legal services. OSDVS helps programs fill in gaps that such restrictions inevitably create.

Domestic violence rates have increased alarmingly during the pandemic, with a concomitant increase in demand for services of all kinds that CWS and its sister agencies provide. The need for an increase in OSDVS funds has never been greater.