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April 30, 2021

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As the Chief Executive Officer of Womenspace in Eugene, I am writing to express strong support for the University of Oregon's Domestic Violence Clinic. The Clinic is an incredibly valuable resource for survivors of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault, and the continued funding by the legislature is important.

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Womenspace provides extensive advocacy resources for survivors of domestic violence and abuse in Lane County. Many of the survivors that seek help from Womenspace need competent legal advice and representation but are not able to pay for legal services, often due to the abuse they have experienced. We refer many of these clients to the Domestic Violence Clinic for legal services. Our long-standing partnership has made it easier for survivors of abuse to access the services they need to keep themselves and their families safe.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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The representation that the Clinic provides in restraining order, family law, and other civil legal matters is critical to the safety of survivors. The Clinic also serves the crucial function of educating law students on how to provide appropriate, high-quality representation to survivors of abuse, which increases the legal services available to our clients who need them, and also increases the ability and dedication of future lawyers to provide these services to their communities.

Womenspace is a
501(c)3 nonprofit.
Tax ID: 93-0692905

The attorneys of the Domestic Violence Clinic also recognize that survivors often have a variety of needs and have developed relationships with not just Womenspace, but also other community organizations to allow survivors to access holistic services. The Clinic's clients are able to work with a trained advocate as well as attorneys and law students, accessing multiple supportive services at the same location.

There continues to be a tremendous need for these legal services for low-income survivors in our community, and the Clinic has demonstrated its expertise and dedication to survivors of abuse. These services and the education of future attorneys in providing them are crucial to supporting survivors of domestic violence in our community, and I urge the Committee to continue its support for the Domestic Violence Clinic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this important work.

Julie Weismann, CEO