

Hello Chair Representative Bynum, Vice-Chair Representative Noble and members of the council. My name is Diana Marie Ogaz Gutman. I first want to take a moment to acknowledge the original host people of these lands: The Kalalapua, the Clatskanie, the Chinook and the Clackamas

I am a disabled Veteran who fought for our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am a soldier, a Veteran; I am a Survivor of war; a Survivor of trafficking; a Survivor of rape; a Survivor of physical violence; a Survivor of homelessness. I am a Survivor of trauma.

I have proposed house bill 2586 to help Survivors of violence and abuse to file for protection orders in the state of Oregon when trauma has been inflicted upon them. Right now, our legislation system is not inclusive enough for Survivors. I believe in order to serve the state of Oregon, we need to serve everyone—including Survivors of trauma—and meet them where they are. This bill creates the option for Survivors to obtain a protective order when their attacker is not a household member or family member.

When I first filed for my protective order, it was almost dismissed because I wasn't filing under the right form to classify what the relationship to my attacker was. It creates a sickening feeling for a Survivor, when we even have to consider what kind of "relationship" we have to our attacker. How do I classify the abuser who set up a tent yards away from mine? How do I classify a relationship between me and a relative's dating partners? How do I classify a relationship between me and a boss's client, or friend? These are currently unrecognized "relationships" that make protective orders unobtainable.

This bill creates protections for people who reside in the homeless community. This bill makes our legislation system more inclusive to the adult entertainment industry. As it is, it is difficult for sex workers to even apply, let alone maintain a protection order when a client has taken things too far and violated the worker's trust and consent. This bill creates protection for your neighbor, whose parent has started dating a violent person who uses that relationship to abuse or exploit your neighbor to whom he or she has no relationship. These things need to be addressed, and that's why I am proposing House bill 2586. I believe this bill needs to be declared an emergency, because for the Survivor it is always an emergency. Not every survivor is going to get to live to see this bill pass, so at the very least we need to make this an emergency so that the moment this bill is signed into effect, people can begin to benefit from these changes immediately.

-Chi Miigwetch
Diana Marie Ogaz Gutman