

Tuesday, Feb. 1st, 2022
4:15 - 4:35pm
House Judiciary Committee

TESTIMONY BY VIDEO

Meeting Link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Good Afternoon Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Mandy Davis. I hold a clinical license and a phd in social work, I am a professor of practice at PSU's School of Social Work and Director of Trauma Informed Oregon.

I am here to support HB 4146.

I want to start by sharing my deep appreciation for the women here today who continue to show up to share their stories to improve the lives of others.

Gender makes a difference. One size does not fit all. Justice involved women have high rates of trauma with limited access to effective gender informed and culturally responsive services before incarceration and this disparity continues while in custody.

Women have not been considered in the building of or the policies, practices and programming in prisons.

With the exponential and alarming increase of justice involved women over the years and our knowledge of the impact of trauma AS WELL- positive experiences throughout the lifespan and generations we need to do the work outlined in HB 4146.

The need has been acknowledged by justice involved women, their families, and those working in these spaces and places. What has been a barrier to effective change is a proper assessment of strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations. Without this we are leaving it up to one-off attempts at change – or a group of good hearted people left to navigate complex systems- these approaches cost more time and are not sustainable.

What is encouraging about HB 4146 is it is recommending a tool - the GIPA- and an approach that is a nationally recognized and has been utilized in several states to identify needs and measure change and provide a way for us to be accountable to the work. We are not alone in this work as several states are implementing gender and cultural relevant practices with success.

Oregon's HCR 33 passed in 2017 put forth a commitment in Oregon to work towards preventing trauma – often caused in our systems - and to promote resilience stating quote “intervention

strategies need to be culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate, gender relevant and informed by the voices of those with lived experiences” end quote –

HB 4146 is an important step in putting action to this commitment.

Thank you for your time and service today.