



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Center for
**HOPE &
SAFETY**



Support for HB 4123 Dash 1 February 9th, 2022 Coordinated Homeless Response System House Committee on Housing

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

The Alliance, along with the steering committee made up of the Oregon Law Center, the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, the Center for Hope & Safety, and Clackamas Women's Services, is pleased to offer joint support for HB 4123-1, which will support regional coordination of efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Across Oregon, too many of our friends and neighbors are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. Our state's housing crisis has a particularly serious impact on the risk of domestic or sexual violence. Without access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, people at risk of or living with abuse are less able to leave a dangerous situation to find safety. Victims are subject to greater incidence and severity of abuse in the home, or risk homelessness if they take the step of leaving an unsafe home.

We know that domestic and sexual violence are leading causes of homelessness, and myriad studies have shown that homeless women report greater incidences of sexual assault.¹ HB 4123-1 will provide an opportunity for survivors and advocates to work with local and regional governments, providers, and partners in creating a 5 year strategic plan to address funding needs, service provision, and coordination of resources designed to best prevent homelessness and support the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Oregon's network of community-based domestic and sexual violence service providers go to great lengths to provide safe emergency temporary shelter for as many survivors as they can. But in 2020 alone, there were 6,746 requests for shelter that went unmet due to lack of capacity. It is clear that there are many survivors who are homeless across our state.

Alliance members have a long history of participating in coordinated community response efforts to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and we look forward to the opportunity to support and learn from fellow partners in creating a coordinated response to homelessness.

¹ <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/fact-sheet/domestic-violence-and-homelessness-statistics-2016>

The Alliance appreciates the work of Representative Kropf in recognizing and supporting the inclusion of voices of survivors in homelessness prevention and response efforts, and we urge your support of HB 4123-1.

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