



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**

**Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Liz Fouter-Branch; I am a member of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) and am sitting on the Joint Committee on Domestic Violence with OCFW. I am writing in support of the testimony of Commissioner Angela Rico, OCFW.

Over 35 years ago, I lost a college friend due to Domestic Violence. She slipped through the cracks, and as one of six friends, we never knew what she was going through until after her death. I also have a cousin that moved from Minnesota to Oregon, leaving an abusive relationship. She was served and supported by Bradley Angle House. She is now a thriving college graduate living and working in Georgia.

All community-based organizations can benefit from additional funding, often allowing them to expand programming, hire staff or extend transitional housing for survivors and their children. It is even more critical today than it was 35 years ago. Sadly, the pandemic and other environmental stressors have increased the need for these services for survivors living in poverty, refugees, and communities of color.

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs serves the people of Oregon to empower and support the African American and Black communities through our special roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policy makers and leaders. OCBA is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between state government and our community in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all African American and Black Oregonians by addressing longstanding and emerging issues at the policy level including but not limited to social, political, legal, and economic equity. OCBA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

We urge the passage of SB 2933, as domestic violence is more prevalent than ever before. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Liz Fouter-Branch

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**

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