

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Testimony in Support of HB 2719**

February 9th, 2023

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

The Safe Place Family Justice Center located in Clackamas County provides critical trauma-informed, wrap-around, and coordinated services to support survivors and victims of domestic violence. The model has been identified as one of the best practices in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services by the United States Department of Justice<sup>1</sup> and in 2019 had an average of 19 visits per day.<sup>2</sup>

The Family Justice Center was notified late last year that they would not receive 5% of the full federal funding level as Oregon statute is not aligned with federal testing and notification timeline requirements. Currently, Oregon statute only includes protocols regarding testing for HIV or other communicable diseases when it appears that transmission of bodily fluids may have occurred during a crime, but many centers across the state have evolved their practices in the past decade that already align with federal statutes to ensure that victims in these cases have access to testing and rapid notification of their results.

HB 2719 is intended to codify best practices of testing and notification timeline protocols in order to align with this federal eligibility requirement, and in doing so, **positions Oregon to pull in full federal funding to serve sexual assault and domestic violence victims.**

Clackamas County is aware of other communities in the state that are currently planning to apply for funding through [ICJR](#); they will be held to this decrease in available funding. Clackamas County is also a current recipient of a ICJR 2022-2025 grant so a fix to the rule would allow the project to access the full \$750,000 grant award. The additional \$37,000 (5%) in federal funding that the Family Justice Center can tap into would undoubtedly have a meaningful impact on their ability to provide responsive and effective services to our most vulnerable families.

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<sup>1</sup><https://scholarship.law.slu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1225&context=plr>

<sup>2</sup> <https://asafeplacefjc.org/about-a-safe-place/>

Thank you for your time and consideration, I urge you to pass HB 2719 out of committee.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

House District 26  
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,  
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain