

Dear Oregon Legislator,

I am a constituent in your district, and I am writing to you today to express my support for **SB-816, the Peace of Mind Bill** for the current legislative session proposed by Diana & Glenn Gutman.

As your constituent, I am asking you to support this SB-816, the Peace of Mind Bill, as I believe this legislative proposal will further help and support Survivors of violence and abuse in my own district, and the rest of the state of Oregon..

Problem Statement

When a petitioner files for a protective order against a respondent, they are given 12 months until that order expires.

The respondent is given 1 month to file a Motion to Contest, and if they do so, then the petitioner must show up to every related hearing to maintain the protection order.

Though necessary, this system allows skilled manipulators to use coincidences to legally harass their victims by dragging out the process for the entire duration of the order, denying the petitioner any peace of mind. No matter how long the Motion to Contest lasts, the original expiration date of the order may not move.

Skilled manipulators' methods may have the appearance of legitimacy (such as but not limited to examples from case 17PO09385 in which the respondent provided the "wrong" mailing address, and claimed a vehicular delay when a detective would be present at the hearing), and it is impossible to fairly use targeted amendments to account for the innumerable coincidences. It is a problem that a vindictive respondent is able to waste tax dollars and court's time in retaliation by disruptively forcing the petitioner to engage through the woefully repurposed "Justice System."

Solution statement

We propose that a new expiration date of the initial protective order be determined at the conclusion of the Motion to Contest. Unless a different date is specified by the overseeing judge, the automatic new expiration date will be 12 months from the conclusion of the motion to contest.

If no contest is filed in the first place, the expiration is one year from the original filing date. No changes are prescribed in this case. If the order is contested, and takes more than 30 days to resolve, the initial expiration date is unacceptable, and must be extended to allow the petitioner to have their year of peace of mind knowing that their attacker must stay away from them.

We propose the Peace of Mind Bill SB 816 as an emergency because for all Survivors of violence and abuse, it is an emergency.

I believe this legislative proposal will further help and support Survivors of violence and abuse and create equal opportunity to all people of the state of Oregon. Please help make SB 816 into Oregon State Law.

Sincerely,
Your Constituent: