

Re: **\$16 Million in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division Budget (SB 5514) for:**

- **\$10 Million to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (HB 2933) for confidential safety and support services**
- **\$6 Million to the Survivor Housing Fund (HB 3018) for housing assistance for survivors**

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is on behalf of the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS) in support of funding in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division Budget (SB 5514) of \$10 million to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) and the Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) for services for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Community based, Tribal, and culturally specific programs received these one-time funds during the pandemic, and we desperately need them to continue in order to meet the overwhelming needs of survivors, and their children, in Oregon.

Our program has been providing crisis services to victims for 50 years. CHS provides a 24-hour bilingual crisis line, emergency shelter, support groups, and many other vital services in Marion and Polk Counties. Last year alone our program had nearly 36,000 contacts to our program and our nights in shelter more than tripled over the previous year!

\$10 Million to Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 2933)

ODSVS distributes funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to provide confidential trauma-informed services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking. These community-based nonprofits support children and adult survivors with wide-ranging crisis intervention and long-term supportive services such as emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis line, legal advocacy, emergency and long-term safety-planning, counseling, support groups and children's programs. These programs also provide prevention education in schools as well as training and education throughout the community. **Community-based domestic and sexual violence programs intersect with many state systems, including the public health and public safety systems.** These programs have built collaborations with law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, the criminal justice system, social services agencies, and many other community partners, and offer critical support for survivors navigating these systems.

ODSVS is the only state general fund source of support for these critical services. The need for these supportive services continues to grow and the burden of essential service provision is challenged by staffing shortages, lack of funding, and other obstacles. We are in support of investing \$10 million for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund to help programs across the state continue to provide necessary and lifesaving services.

"I felt helpless till I heard about your agency. It changed my life. Thank you! Because of your help me and my family will be in a safe place."

Center for HOPE & SAFETY



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

605 Center St NE • Salem, OR 97301 • hopeandsafety.org
503-378-1572 office • 503-399-7722 hotline

because everyone deserves a life free of violence

\$6 Million in Oregon Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 3018)

SHF provides funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to facilitate access to safe and stable housing for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking. Through these programs, SHF has already demonstrated they mean long-term safety and stability for vulnerable families in Oregon.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence 2021 Annual Domestic Violence Court Report, Oregon's domestic and sexual violence hotline staff averaged nearly 20 contacts per hour in the one-day count. During that time victims made 127 requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and other support needs—that programs could not provide because they lacked the resources. Approximately 80% of these unmet requests were for housing and emergency shelter. Both in 2019 and 2021, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women survivor priority survey found that permanent, affordable housing is the greatest need facing survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our state.

SHF have been instrumental in supporting survivors and their families in finding safe and permanent housing. This is just one of many stories where SHF helped victims rebuild their lives free of violence:

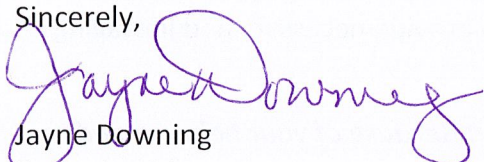
"My situation was so severe that my mom came from far away just to make sure I was okay. Everyone at CHS helped me and my daughters so much. We came to Mosaic with just the clothes on our backs and we left with an apartment, a job, and safety for me and my daughters. As soon as my mom saw that I was ok, she went back home. She is also extremely thankful for you all and she wishes she could express the same. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Please support an investment of \$6 million in Oregon Survivor Housing Funds to end housing instability for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking.

In closing, \$16 million in long-term stable funding for ODSVS (\$10 million) and SHF (\$6 million) funding, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD), will provide programs with the resources to further develop capacity and build a statewide infrastructure designed for sustainability and equity in meeting the needs of survivors. Continuation of this one-time funding is necessary to stabilize programs, meet the rising need for safety services, and offer wages designed to recruit and retain skilled workers and administrators.

For all the reasons outlined above, and for all the victims and survivors in Oregon, we ask that you support an ongoing investment of a \$10 million increase in ODSVS funds and a continuation of \$6 million in Survivor Housing Funds in the CVSSD Budget. Full funding of these services is critical to change the lives of victim of violence in Oregon. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jayne Downing
Executive Director