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To: Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety
From: Sybil Hebb, Oregon Law Center
Date: March 2nd, 2023
Re: Support SB 5514, Department of Justice CVSSD Budget

Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Evans, and members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of full funding of Attorney General Rosenblum's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, and specifically in support of:

- Inclusion of \$10 Million for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) in POP #308; and
- An addition to the CVSSD proposed budget of \$6 million for the Survivor Housing Fund (SHF).

These amounts were allocated as one-time funding during the pandemic, and we seek continuation of these important programs in the CSL moving forward, to ensure on-going and stable access to services designed to meet critical need. We so appreciate the leadership of the Attorney General and of the entire team at CVSSD in their work to meet the needs of survivors.

The Oregon Law Center urges full support of funding for these programs because they are critical to the safety and security of our clients. OLC's mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities of Oregon, by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. A significant number of our clients come to us for help as they are struggling to seek safety from domestic or sexual violence. About a third of our cases involve the issue of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Gender-based violence greatly contributes to the vulnerability of our clients, and further trap them in poverty and crisis. OLC is committed to supporting the coordinated community response, and to the safety and support services offered by community based domestic and sexual violence shelter and safety programs for survivors in every county across the state. Without these services, we would simply not be able to successfully help our clients.

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. ODSVS funds are basic operating funds that allow programs to keep the doors open, have staff on site, keep the hotlines running, and shelter beds available.

Every one of the requests for services from survivors represents a brave outreach, in a time of critical need, that we must be able to meet. We are asking that one-time funds of \$10 million that were invested during the last biennium, be re-upped and rolled into continuing service level moving forward.



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Next, I'll speak to The Survivor Housing Fund. We seek \$6 million to be added to the bill, to support this program which has been seeded with one-time funding over the last 2 biennia. This program has been extremely successful and allows DVSA service providers to serve survivors who need expert assistance in finding safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Through the Survivor Housing Fund, advocates are able to offer individualized, culturally specific, trauma-informed housing placement assistance for survivors who may need to move to be safe, or who need help with landlord negotiations, housing searches, application processes, tenant education, and other case management. The fund can provide for motel or hotel emergency stays, and help with move-in costs.

This program increases the chances at long-term stability and safety for survivors and their children. As Oregon's housing affordability crisis continues to reach new peaks, the Survivor Housing Funds can make it possible for victims to escape the cycle of abuse to establish stability for themselves and their children.

Thank you to the committee members for their time and attention to this issue. We urge your support for these items and for the other important programs incorporated into the CVSSD budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.