



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

March 20, 2023

RE: HB 2391- Support

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Wallan and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Please accept this letter in support for HB 2391 for system-based crime victim advocates located in District Attorney Offices statewide.

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, non-profit and community-based victim services organizations, and multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Crime victim advocates in District Attorney offices provide a core function of the DAs office, supporting a crime victim through the criminal justice system. They are key partners with community-based victim service providers who support these victims beyond the engagement with the courts. Victim advocates are uniquely positioned to provide support for victims navigating the criminal justice system, offering key services such as staying informed of court dates, understanding Oregon's Victim Rights statute, assistance acquiring protective orders, referrals to resources and support to access crime victim's compensation.

To have a trauma informed system for victims we must ensure skilled support is available in each component of our public safety system. We ask for your support of HB 2391.