

Submitter: Jacqueline Whitt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1070

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am in support of this SB 1070.

In Oregon, more than one third of women have experienced domestic violence. For too many survivors of domestic abuse, their victimization is a direct pathway to incarceration.

Once a survivor becomes a criminal defendant, their status as survivor – a victim in need support and care – is no longer recognized by the criminal justice system. They are prosecuted and sentenced without consideration of the impact that the domestic violence had on them.

Oregon's sentencing laws do not adequately allow judges to consider the impact of domestic violence on survivors. This results in unjust and excessively long terms in prison, where survivors are continuously retraumatized by an environment that resembles the abusive relationships from which they came.

SB 1070 will allow for more just sentencing for survivors of domestic violence who become criminal defendants by virtue of the abuse they suffered; and be a significant step toward much needed care and support for incarcerated survivors.

Please pass SB 1070

Thank You!