

Submitter: Amie Wexler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1070

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I urge you to pass SB 1070 out of committee and send it to the Senate floor with a do-pass recommendation. Those that endure domestic violence suffer long term consequences. People who have experienced domestic and family violence are more likely to have depression, panic attacks, phobias, anxiety and sleeping disorders. They have higher stress levels and are at greater risk of suicide attempts. The person experiencing domestic violence may commit crimes under duress. They may also strike back at their abuser in self defense or as a way to escape the long term trauma and suffering.

Licensed Psychologist and Childhood Domestic Violence Victim Advocate, Linda Olson Psy.D, works with survivors of domestic violence and says that the cumulative effects of trauma can put survivors in a constant state of hyper-arousal (overreaction) or hypo-arousal (when we withdraw or shut-down). The increased cortisol alerts the brain to threats that may not even be there because, says Olson "you're always believing and therefore reacting as if they are."

SB 1070 does what Oregon should have done long ago, take into account the fullness of a person's history when looking at sentencing when domestic violence was a contributing factor. I do hope that this body acts now to pass this legislation and assist survivors who are wrapped up in our justice system.

Thank you,
Amie Wexler