

**JANEEN SOLLMAN**

**STATE SENATOR**

DISTRICT 15



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

March 28, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary in support of SB 1070

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today in support of Senate Bill 1070. Currently, when making sentencing determinations, Oregon's sentencing laws do not require courts to consider evidence of domestic violence. This in turn exacerbates the trauma experienced by survivors of abuse and creates a direct pathway between domestic violence experiences and incarceration. If we do not address this issue, there will continue to be survivors who get wrapped up in the criminal legal system and families will continue to get torn apart.

As a survivor that grew up in a home where domestic violence was present, I know that leaving an abusive relationship is not easy, and individuals face great barriers when attempting to do so. There may very well be financial control that the abuser holds, putting the victim under monetary constraint. They fear becoming homeless, and fear that their abuser will hurt or kill them and/or their children. The fear is real. Individuals that act to protect themselves or their loved ones, need special consideration in our courts system. Senate Bill 1070 would require our courts to take into consideration any evidence of intimate partner violence when making sentencing decisions, allowing them to either reduce or give an alternative sentence to a defendant survivor.

When we hear the stories of these survivors, we hear the pain and suffering that they have endured and continue to endure. The prison system is not set up with the necessary programs and support to heal from their trauma. Instead, they are retraumatized by the environment they're in, and they're not the only ones who suffer. Oregon families are being torn apart because of this lack of consideration and will continue to be torn apart unless we do something.

Colleagues, I urge your support for SB 1070.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Senate District 15

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