

April 27, 2023

Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education:

My name is Haley Frank, and I am submitting this statement in support of continued funding for the Domestic Violence Program at the University of Oregon. As a University of Oregon Law School student, I have enrolled in the Domestic Violence Civil Clinic and the Advanced Domestic Violence Civil Clinic. Both were integral in expanding my knowledge of Oregon family law and the nuances of domestic violence as well as applying that knowledge to clients' cases.

While working on cases, I also developed client interviewing skills by learning the right questions to ask to build cases and by practicing my responses to emotional clients. I also got to prepare for hearings by building trial notebooks with opening statements, direct and cross-examination questions, and closing arguments that I had written and by simulating direct examination questions with clients. Through this entire process, I became familiar with various filings for domestic relations cases and courtroom procedures from getting the hands-on experience of filling out paperwork; writing motions, responses, and subpoenas; and observing courtroom proceedings.

The clinics were the most valuable classes I took. They not only taught me in the classroom and out in the field, but they also helped me fulfill my goal of obtaining the family law concentration and serving as a sort of internship. On a very personal level, they also made me feel fulfilled that I was helping low-income domestic violence survivors access the legal system and serve as their advocate. My time in law school would not have been complete without the experience of the clinics.

Thank you,

Haley Frank