

April 8, 2023

Re: \$16 Million in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division Budget (SB 5514) for:

- \$10 Million to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (HB 2933) for confidential safety and support services
- \$6 Million to the Survivor Housing Fund (HB 3018) for housing assistance for survivors

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Christina McGovney [she | her] and I live in Southeast Portland. I have been working for domestic and sexual violence nonprofit organizations in Oregon since 2009. I am writing to day to show my support for two crucial house bills that support survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking across our state. I support the nonprofits in my community that do the critical life saving work helping survivors flee from abusive situations and rebuild their lives after experiencing physical violence, emotional and psychological abuse, economic abuse, spiritual abuse, coercion, reproductive coercion, and so much more. I implore you to support the \$10 million dollars of sustained funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) fund - HB 2933 - and the 6 million to the Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) - HB3018. I know there are a lot of important bills in this session, but I would encourage you to prioritize nonprofit community-based provider funds even if it involves tapping into our state reserves. ODSVS and SHF are each essential funding sources that allow Oregon's network of nonprofit, community-based, tribal, and culturally specific domestic and sexual violence service providers across the state to ensure that survivors have access to confidential, culturally specific and responsive, trauma-informed support and assistance as they seek safety from abuse.

\$10 Million to Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 2933)

The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) distributes funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to provide confidential trauma-informed services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and sex trafficking. These community-based nonprofits support youth and adult survivors with wide-ranging crisis intervention and long-term supportive services such as emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis lines, legal advocacy, emergency and long-term safety-planning, counseling, support groups and youth programs. These programs also provide prevention education in schools as well as training and education throughout the community. Community-based domestic and sexual violence programs intersect with many state systems, including the public health and public safety systems. These

programs have built collaborations with law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, the criminal justice system, social services agencies, and many other community partners, and offer critical support for survivors navigating these structures.

ODSVS is the only state general fund source of support for these truly life savings services. The need for these supportive services continues to grow and the burden of essential service provision is challenged by staffing shortages, lack of funding, and other barriers for those trying to flee domestic and sexual violence. We are in support of investing \$10 million for the ODSVS Fund to provide essential financial support to programs across the state to continue to provide necessary and lifesaving services to survivors in our community, and not further funding instability for those providers who have a significant positive impact in our state.

\$6 Million in Oregon Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 3018)

The SHF fund distributes funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to facilitate access to safer and more stable housing for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and sex trafficking. With domestic violence being one of the leading causes of homelessness for women, SHF assistance is a crucial component of the efforts to assist survivors in their journey towards stable permanent housing. Without secure and more stable housing, healing from violence and abuse becomes nearly impossible. The SHF supports survivors by providing supportive services and the financial assistance resources necessary to address barriers in accessing housing. This may include moving assistance, application fees, security deposits, and other non-rent move-in costs. These critical and flexible funds help survivors begin this new stage in their lives on solid ground.

For FY22, our local system of nonprofit victim's services providers in Multnomah County alone, demonstrated the follow data and outcomes:

- 891 survivors (423 households)
- 544 survivors (245 households) exited from those programs
- 92% exited to permanent housing
- Only 5% exited to "other" and almost all reported that they chose to temporary stay with family or friends
- Only 3% unknown exit destination and this was mostly people served in a short-term Diversion program.
- 83% survivors identified from a Black or Indigenous Community of Color
- 32% of the heads of household identified having a disability

The \$16 million in long-term stable funding for ODSVS (\$10 million) and SHF (\$6 million) funding, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD), will provide programs with the resources to further develop capacity and build a statewide infrastructure designed for sustainability and equity in meeting the needs of survivors. Continuation and ongoing support of this funding is necessary to stabilize

programs, meet the rising need for safety services, and offer wages designed to recruit and retain skilled workers and administrators.

In between July 2021 and June 2022, ODSVS funds directly support nonprofit helping at least 5,245 survivors access shelter to provide safety option when fleeing from violence and abuse, and helps those organizations answer at least 90,941 calls across our state. The SHF provides flexible funds, when so many other housing funds for survivors create barriers, the SHF breaks down barriers to safer housing and 89% of survivors assisted by the funds were still safely housed 3 months after receiving the assistance, and 86% of survivors that that this assistance helped them keep or obtain employment, attend school, receive medical support, and manage child custody. 86% of survivors reported that their children are safer and more stable as well. Domestic violence impacts our entire community and it's important we prioritize this vital safety net for survivors, their children, their pets, and our entire community across the state of Oregon.

We deeply encourage your support for an ongoing investment of a \$10 million increase in ODSVS funds and a continuation plus increase for the \$6 million in Survivor Housing Funds in the Crime Victims and Survivors Service Division Budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina McGovney".

Christina McGovney [she | her]

Resident of Southeast Portland