

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY SUPPORT HB 4140

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Shannon Rose and I serve as the Executive Director for the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF). Today I write to urge you to support HB 4140 which appropriates funds to stabilize and increase access to programs for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

HB 4140 addresses funding supports specifically for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS), the Survivor Housing Fund (SHS), and Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) - all of which support critical, life saving services to people experiencing violence and abuse across our state.

Our community greatly appreciates the investments already made in these areas and we urge you to extend that support in two very important ways: ensuring that investments made in the 2021 and 2023 sessions are established as current service levels, rather than one-time allocations, and to increase the amount of those investments in this session in order to continue to close the gap on funding required for these important survivor services.

ODSVS and SHS are critical pieces of the puzzle for Oregon victim services providers. Administered through the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, these funds are delivered to community-based and culturally-specific programs, who are able to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed supports tailored to the needs of their local communities. Passage of HB 4140 is a commitment to improving safety and well-being for adult and child survivors of violence and abuse.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shannon Rose

Shannon Rose
Executive Director
Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Yes on HB 4140

HB 4140 contains critical elements that will stabilize and increase access to services and programs for victims of child abuse and domestic or sexual violence by:

- Clarifying that investments made by the 2021 and 2023 legislatures are considered current service level, not one-time funding.
- Making additional investments into critical areas – Children’s Advocacy Center Funding, Survivor Housing Funding, and Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Funding – to provide care for crime victims no matter the age, or service level, throughout the state.



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women



Oregon Child Abuse Solutions
Protect. Heal. Lead.



Oregon Coalition
Against Domestic & Sexual Violence



Oregon Law Center

Additional Investments

HB 4140 Provides additional investments to Children's Advocacy Centers and the Survivor Housing Fund and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund:

→ **Children's Advocacy Centers: \$5M for Mental/Behavioral Health, \$150K Hair Drug Testing**

- **Mental Health Treatment – \$5M to provide children access to mental health professionals who are trained in child trauma-focused treatment provided by CACs or through a linkage agreement in a safe, secure, and trusted location.**
 - To assure all children have access to mental health professions we're asking for a continuous investment into 3 critical areas, totaling \$5M – retention of existing employees (\$2.5M), recruitment (\$2M), and support staff (\$500K).
- **Hair Drug Testing – Oregon Department of Human Services/Child Welfare and Safety can request that CACs carry out hair drug testing when questions of drug exposure to children arise. These tests range from \$200-\$300, and DHS covers the full cost roughly 33% of the time, leaving the CAC to cover the rest through a private funding source. We're asking for \$150K/year to cover the costs of these tests for CACs in Oregon.**

→ **\$6M for Domestic and Sexual Violence Supports**

- **Current funding for the Survivor Housing Fund and Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund are not keeping pace with inflation, need, and expansion of eligible organizations.**
 - Survivor Housing Fund – This specific funding has proven to help DSV survivors find and maintain safe housing. In the midst of this housing shortage and affordability crisis, more survivors seeking safety from abuse face greater barriers to finding safe and stable homes. The ask is \$3M to increase access to assistance, including homelessness prevention, safe emergency housing, and rehousing assistance for victims and children in need.
 - Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund – These funds provide support for the network of nonprofit organizations providing shelter, safety planning, hotline, and advocacy services for survivors across the state; there has been an increase in overhead and administration costs which leaves programs unable to meet the need. To provide adequate wages, and keep up with administrative costs, the investment ask is \$3M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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