



February 26, 2024

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

FROM: Emily Grimmus, Oregon Policy Director for Restraining Orders Without Borders

RE: Support for HB 4146

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

I am writing to express Restraining Orders Without Borders' (ROWB) enthusiastic support for sections 1-3 of HB 4146, which ensures survivors of abuse have the ability to petition for a restraining order in the jurisdiction of the offense. In collaboration with Representative Annessa Hartman and key stakeholders, ROWB has diligently worked on this critical bill over the past months, initially bringing the legislative concept in sections 1-3 to the House Judiciary Committee's attention.

[Restraining Orders Without Borders](#) is a federal and state campaign ensuring the right to protection for survivors of sexual/domestic violence through legislation. ROWB passed its first law in Hawaii in 2023, has passed the California State Senate thus far in the 2024 legislative cycle, and is working with legislators federally. The campaign is a grantee by Rise, who authored the federal Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights which passed Congress unanimously in 2016.

Allowing survivors of domestic/sexual violence and sex trafficking the same options for filing that are currently available to victims of stalking under Oregon law, is critical. Due to the I-5 corridor, both Oregon and Washington are recognized as hubs within a national and global sex trafficking circuit. In 2021, 160 cases were brought to light, with nearly 250 victims involved. Additionally, per the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#), the number of victims identified have more than doubled between 2015 and 2021—revealing the true effects of this silent crisis.

In addition, expanding restraining order access to file where the abuse occurs codifies protections, without relying on judicial discretion, for college students, those fleeing domestic violence situations, and others who may be experiencing housing issues. Further, because state courts can often deny standing to those who do not live in the state to file, visitors on business, holiday, or other purposes are at a greater risk for protections being denied. According to [Travel Oregon](#), tourism in Oregon surpassed pre-pandemic levels to bring in \$13.9 billion in tourism revenue and state tax revenue from tourism rose by \$181 million. If visitors are not provided increased protections, Oregon could see a reduction in visitors and revenue.

By expanding the venues that victims have when petitioning for a restraining order, Oregon has the opportunity to be a leader of victim's advocacy nationwide. On behalf of survivors in Oregon and across the world, I urge the passage of this much-needed legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Grimmus