



**TO: Co- Chairs Sanchez and Lieber & Ways and Means Joint Committee Members**

**From: Hilary Levine, OCADSV & Susan Prettyman Hartill, The Harbor**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the hearing on 3/28/25. Please accept the written testimony below as a supplement.

Hello, my name is Hilary Levine – I been a part of the Clatsop county community for 9 years , I formerly worked at The Harbor in Astoria as an advocate and now, I work for a state-wide advocacy organization, The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

I am here to ask that you prioritize the funding streams that allow community based domestic and sexual violence programs to provide life-saving services in their communities. Funding sources like:

- Department of Justice: Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) & Survivor Housing Funds through the DOJ
- Oregon Department of Human Services: Survivor Investment Partnership, TANF-DVS and Co-Located Advocacy Funding

Community-based domestic and sexual violence programs provide free, confidential services including crisis lines, emergency and transitional housing, support groups, co-located advocacy, safety planning, legal advocacy, and resource navigation.

Every year these programs are asked to do more with less as the needs and complexities of those needs grow. I would like to ask the committee for your commitment to sustainable and consistent funding to meet these growing needs. This can be reflected both in the committee's budgetary considerations as well as by passing **HB4140**.

I would like to introduce you to my colleague to share an illustrative story of why these services are needed in this community.

Hello, my name is Susan Prettyman Hartill, deputy director of The Harbor, a community-based domestic and sexual violence advocacy agency serving Clatsop county.

I would like to state that the survivor in the story gave us consent to share per our confidentiality requirements.

Recently, we began working with a survivor that was referred through law enforcement. The survivor had been held captive in their apartment for 2 days and was repeatedly sexually and physically assaulted. The survivor was able to grab a phone and call 911 when their abuser was in the restroom. Thankfully, dispatch was able to understand what was happening without much direct conversation, including instructing responding officers to break down the door to rescue the survivor. The survivor was screened for our shelter and ultimately, given a room the same day. Our advocates worked with the survivor, attended court with them, and provided emotional support when her abuser was sentenced to many years in prison.

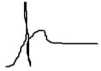
Together, with the support and encouragement from our advocates, the survivor began the hard journey of healing from their traumatic experience. They gained valuable certifications and education while at our shelter, which helped her on her path to finding secure employment. We also connected the survivor to mental health support services and housing resources. After only 60 days in our shelter, the survivor found safe, stable housing and was able to move into their own home.

These life-saving and healing services are only possible in our community with appropriate and consistent funding for staffing and resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Thank You

Submitted by:

Hilary Ann Levine



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