

Hello,

My name is Lisa Guirsch. I am writing on behalf of SB 710. We are asking that you pass this bill, requiring continuing education for judges in the state of Oregon. There is nothing malicious or negative about wanting our judges to have the most up-to-date, and current information because information innovates, evolves, and progresses as time goes by. I can tell you first hand that there is a lack of trauma informed care in all departments across the board, and we will attempt to set the bar here by mandating that judges engage in continuing education year after year. How can we expect results that are both punitive and restorative if all of the knowledge is incomplete? This will not create any more biases than we create everyday throughout life. This is actually a benefit. There are 3 components in a courtroom setting....the judge, the prosecuting attorney, and the defense. If we ask these judges to continue their education, then the others will do it to. It's almost a form of ex parte, if they don't. It could be seen as an unfair advantage for judges to know something that the DA and Defense does not. So passing this SB 710, would provide trauma informed care for us all. I have been a victim of abuse. I didn't grow up with a dream of suffering a lifetime from the abuse I did endure. We are all participating in a cycle of perpetuating abuse, if we don't do all we can to provide the very latest and best information to those people who have dedicated their lives to public safety. How would you feel if it happened to your child? How would you feel if your child was sexually assaulted and when you went to court, the judge wasn't aware of the lifetime of effects that your child was facing? I know first hand that sexual assault usually gets less time in prison than a fist fight. How would it make you feel if that was your child?

Even medical doctors have to engage in continuing education to keep their license. We trust those doctors. Please pass this senate bill so that our judges are current with all the training available to them. The DA and the Defense will follow.

Thanks,
Lisa Guirsch