



May 12<sup>th</sup> 2025,

To: Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and, members of the Committee:

My name is Keri Moran Kuhn, and I am the Executive Director for the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (OCADSV). OCADSV was founded in 1978 and its membership is comprised of community-based organizations and tribal nation service providers that support survivors of interpersonal violence including domestic and sexual violence, stalking and trafficking. The Oregon Coalition supports its member programs throughout Oregon, including those that have seen firsthand the devastating impacts of interpersonal violence. I am writing to urge your support of **HB 2492** with the amendment of a 5 year look back for violations of orders of protection.

**HB 2492** would amend Oregon law to address the serious implications of domestic, sexual violence and stalking cases. Under current Oregon law, violations of protection orders can be expunged from an abusers record after only 1 year; HB 2492 would increase that to a 5-year waiting period for expungement eligibility. This change would increase survivors' safety and ensure accountability for those that violate orders of protection.

Increasing expungement eligibility from 1 to 5 years for violations of protection orders ensures a perpetrator's record remains intact which can help identify abusive patterns and provides important context for potential cases in the future. Domestic violence is a pattern of tactics that assert power and control over the intended target. These patterns can grow and escalate over the course of time that the abusive party still has access to the survivor. Violation of an order of protection signals a disregard for legal boundaries and the courts' orders. It is one indication in a pattern of abuse that the tactics are escalating, and potential lethality is increasing. Records of this behavior are important to understand the full picture of the abuse that was perpetuated.

Separating from an abusive relationship requires survivors to access resources and often engage in many different civil court hearings including: divorce or custody proceedings. These proceedings can start long after an order of protection is obtained. Intact records of the abusive behavior are crucial for courts to better assess risk in determining custody or parenting time and bail decisions. Further, **HB 2492** would secure the availability of records a survivor may need to provide documentation of abuse to access emergency resources such as housing or relocation assistance, employment protections and other forms of relief.

Lastly, in 2023 Senate Bill 816, expanded permanent restraining orders to last 2 years unless a petition is granted to end early. Without the 5 year amendment the bill seems to make it possible to allow a violation of a restraining order to be expunged before the term of the order has run.

The 5 year look back amendment in **HB 2492** for civil violations of restraining orders is necessary to ensure time for access to records for all needed reasons to prioritize survivor safety and also ensures accountability by underscoring the seriousness of protection order violations. I strongly encourage you to pass HB2942 with the amendment to require a 5 year period for expunging violations of orders of protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keri Moran-Kuhn".

Keri Moran-Kuhn  
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