



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

DATE: February 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB 4045

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

My name is Sarah Sabri and I am a Senior Assistant Attorney General and the statewide Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor with the Oregon Department of Justice and am here to testify in support of HB 4045, “Kristil’s Law” with the dash-2 amendments.

I have worked as a specialized domestic violence (“DV”) prosecutor in Oregon for over 20 years. As the DV Resource Prosecutor, I am the Department’s in-house expert on technical issues or concerns related to domestic violence, and I regularly train prosecutors and law enforcement across the state in best practice responses to the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and stalking cases.

Domestic violence and stalking crimes are deeply rooted in power, control, and often surveillance. Those coercive control dynamics are frequently facilitated through technology, whether that be text messages, email, social media, location tracking, or other online communications. Most of our statutes have not caught up with the technology that allows offenders to harm victims. Evidence from communication companies and social media platforms often hold the key to identifying not just criminal behavior but also the scope of danger or risk, escalating threats, fixation behaviors, or specific statements of imminent harm.

From my own practice and experience, I know that it currently takes weeks, sometimes months, to get information back on these types of search warrants. This often delays the ability to move forward on investigations, suspends the identification of offenders and ability to arrest or charge, hinders access to information that could prevent or intervene against ongoing abuse, and interferes with the ability for victims to make important safety plans. While waiting for the return of requested evidence, we are missing out on information that would identify whether or what kind of access an offender has to a victim, whether threats are credible and escalating, and whether protective action is necessary. In some cases, victims are left without answers in what we know to be the most dangerous window of time, where violence and lethality risks are the highest: the time immediately following either separation or reporting.

In domestic violence and stalking cases, time is not neutral. Risk can escalate very rapidly. A victim may be actively trying to relocate, seeking protection, or disengaging from an abusive individual while an offender may be monitoring their movements, engaging in ongoing abuse, making threats, impersonating them online, or planning retaliation.

I have watched as victims disengage from the investigation or prosecution process when they feel like the system cannot move quickly enough to protect them or hold offenders accountable. This is particularly harmful when considering a class of victims that are already navigating the impacts of abuse, fear, isolation, safety concerns and on-going trauma.

This bill ensures that when a judge finds probable cause and issues a lawful search warrant, the warrant is executed in a timeframe that reflects the realities and risks specifically associated with these underlying crimes. The timeline requirements outlined in HB 4045, recognize operational capacities of technology companies while acknowledging that domestic violence and stalking crimes *must* be viewed as high-priority offenses. These are crimes that terrorize, and crimes that kill. These are crimes where timely information can mean the difference between intervention or prevention and tragedy.

There are also reasons to support this bill from an overall criminal justice standpoint- to assure fairness and promote more timely and complete and accurate investigations. A few years back, I handled a complex tech-facilitated stalking case. A woman reported that an ex-boyfriend was sending a high volume of increasingly alarming texts and social media messages. For over a year, investigators worked diligently but were unable to get ahead of the information because the warrant productions from these communications companies took so long to get back. By the time data was returned, it was already stale and we couldn't utilize it in the next steps of the investigation. In this particular case, it was ultimately discovered that the reporting party had created these accounts herself and effectively framed this ex-boyfriend for stalking. Despite hundreds of hours spent across multiple local and state agencies trying to determine where the threats were coming from, this ex-boyfriend suffered significant negative impacts during the course of this investigation. We would have avoided the misplaced impacts and the actual perpetrator would have been quickly identified if there had been a fast response to the communication and social media data pursuant to the search warrants issued in this case.

In the case for which this bill is named, law enforcement in Colorado issued an arrest warrant for another individual that was believed to be Kristil's stalker based on the content and appearance of the messages and communications she had received. An innocent person could have been arrested and detained because law enforcement did not receive the search warrant information that would have identified that individual was not involved. In Kristil's case, the delay in the return of information meant that an innocent person's life would have been impacted, the real

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perpetrator was able to continue his abuse, *and* ultimately Kristil lost her life because she didn't know where the real threat was coming from until it was too late.

On a personal note, as a friend and former colleague of the constituent that brought this bill, I am very aware of the tragedy and loss that her family suffered after Kristil was murdered. I am humbled by Ms. Ivanoff's ability to take that loss and turn it into a proactive effort to create this mechanism for the criminal justice system to gather *actionable* safety information.

This legislation will provide law enforcement with the ability to conduct improved investigations and will effectively save lives. I urge you to support HB 4045-2 as a necessary, practical step toward improving victim safety, strengthening investigations, and holding offenders accountable in a digital age where speed matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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