

Dead Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The Oregon Commission for Women-led (OCFW) Joint Subcommittee on Domestic Violence Awareness and Statewide Coordination strongly endorses HB 4045, which requires communications providers to respond to search warrants related to stalking or domestic violence investigations within 72 hours.

OCFW works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for all women across the state of Oregon, and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting women in this state. OCFW and its sister commissions, the Commission on Black Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs have several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity for their respective constituencies. HB 4045 strongly aligns with the commissions' adopted priority and work within the Joint Commissions Subcommittee on Domestic Violence Awareness and Statewide Coordination.

Research shows that stalking is closely connected to domestic violence, greatly raising the victim's risk of immediate harm from the offender. This bill targets a vital part of ongoing criminal investigations, allowing law enforcement to quickly obtain crucial evidence related to cybercrime victimization, act lawfully and swiftly, and establish safety boundaries for the victim.

The 2019 National Victimization Survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that about 80%, or roughly 2.7 million victims, experienced stalking via technology. Additionally, around 67%, or approximately 2.3 million victims, faced traditional stalking methods like being followed or tracked by person or vehicle¹.

Less than a third (29%) of all stalking victims reported the incident(s) to law enforcement in 2019 due to the complex nature of this criminal act. It is even more complex when stalking crimes are involved in ongoing domestic violence abuse and victimization¹.

Between 2016 and 2019, an increasing proportion of stalking victims – both overall and those not reporting to the law enforcement – believed that the justice system could not assist them. The percentage of victims citing this reason increased from 27% to 33%¹. Due to the complex nature of these crimes, it is crucial to support victims who come forward, and to pursue all legal options to investigate these cases and protect vulnerable individuals.

¹ *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Stalking Data Brief*, n.d.





Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

oaco.mail@oac.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/oac

Data on criminal justice regarding stalking is crucial for creating evidence-based laws and policies that shape how the system responds to and prevents stalking. Victims of stalking are not just statistics; their experiences underscore a serious issue affecting millions, necessitating laws, measures, and protocols that evolve with changing stalking behaviors, including cybercrime.

Oregon can set a national example in policy innovation by adopting this law. It clearly signals to victims of stalking and domestic abuse that their lives are valued and underscores for law enforcement the importance of swift investigations in upholding constitutional policing and procedural fairness. The overall aim is to protect and save lives while ensuring offenders are held accountable.

The Joint Subcommittee on Domestic Violence Awareness and Statewide Coordination, supported by all four advocacy commissions, strongly supports HB 4045 and requests the committee recommend a do-pass to protect the livelihoods of domestic violence victims by acting in an urgent and timely manner.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission for Women

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

