



4110 SE Hawthorne Boulevard no. 503 | Portland, Oregon 97214  
Admin (503) 222-6507 | Crisis (503) 222-6222 | Fax (503) 222-4754  
We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

March 14, 2019

Dear Joint Committee of Ways and Means/subcommittee on Public Safety,

Raphael House of Portland is one of 3 emergency domestic violence shelters in Multnomah County - *all* of which are full *all* the time. When a family moves out of one of our shelters to a safe home, we quickly move to fill that room. Unfortunately, there is *always* a family or an individual needing safe and confidential escape from violence.

We provide a temporary home for people whose homes have been terrorized by violence and control. Our building and our 24 hour hotline are both available because of ODSVS.

The ODSVS funds have contributed to keeping our shelter operational day-to-day. It is a wonderful resource which allows us to pay for the essential needs that keep our doors open;

Every child who stays under our roof deserves these basic home structures and the sense that shelter - is just that - a shelter - from violence. These children deserve a sense of normalcy in order to sleep at night, play with friends, eat a healthy meal and be able to go to school. Their parent deserves to look for work, mail housing applications, and plan for their future.

This is what the ODSVS funds pay for- they have been a flexible resource for domestic violence shelters to provide lifesaving services for thousands of families each year.

There is nothing exciting about paying for these basic needs- yet they are the crucial aspects of running any home. *Every home* needs electricity, water, heat in the winter, repairs and upkeep, and insurance to protect it all.

Every home deserves to feel safe.

Raphael House along with the other lifesaving domestic violence shelters in Oregon have been that safe and stable home with the help of ODSVS.

And as you can imagine, costs increase every year- Costs to run our building that is a home for approximately 75-100 people a year while also housing all 10 programs that

**[www.raphaelhouse.com](http://www.raphaelhouse.com)**



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annually support 425 of the domestic violence survivors with whom we have worked for over 41 years- 60% of whom are children.

Though ODSVS has been an essential stable resource for all of us, current funding meets only 25% of what it takes to run our shelter.

All of us at Raphael House of Portland ask you to support the \$10 Million increase to these necessary ODSVS funds.

Survivors Need YOU to Double Down for their Safety so shelters can continue to.

Sincerely,

Emmy Ritter