



## ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

### Support for HB 3117

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*Committed To, And  
Value, Offender  
Reformation,  
Services to Victims,  
Crime Prevention,  
And Community  
Restoration*

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House Judiciary Chair Representative Jennifer Williamson and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Jeff Wood and I am the Commander of Marion County Community Corrections. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD).

In close consultation with crime victim advocates, survivors, the Oregon Post Conviction Advocacy Network (PCAN), and following best practices in victims' services and community supervision, the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) support House Bill 3117.

Protective Orders exist for the sole purpose of providing legal protection to innocent people who fear for their safety and lives due to the abusive and threatening behavior of another person.

This bill is progressive and we support it for the following reasons:

1. It increases the window of opportunity for a victim to obtain protection. In many cases, it is not reasonable or feasible for a victim to obtain an order of protection within the current 180 days. As an example, if an offender has left the state, or cannot be located, or has a no-contact order in place, a victim may not feel they need an order of protection, but if the situation changes, increasing the window allows the victim time to respond accordingly.
2. It honors a victim's readiness and empowers them to take action when they feel safer to do so. Abuse by an intimate partner, family member, caregiver, etc. is highly traumatic and complex. For many victims, they may fear that a protective order may escalate abuse (and it often can) and so they attempt other means of self, and child, protection. Extending the window to obtain an order of protection allows victims time to problem-solve, safety plan, and gather healthy support before they make the decision to obtain the order; allowing them to be better prepared to navigate the consequences and risks of having an order in place.
3. It acknowledges the significant harm of past abuse and the real fear of, and potential of, future harm. Because abuse is traumatic and complex, it can take time for a victim to come to terms with the harm done to them by a loved one. It can also take time to see and come to terms with the threats that still remain. Extending the window for an order of protection allows a victim time to gain more clarity and objectivity, ensuring the protective order tool is available beyond the initial time of trauma and confusion, where they may be better positioned to use the tool effectively.

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4. The increased window of opportunity allows for situations where a victim may initially believe the abuse will end and the relationship can continue. Most victims want the abuse to end, so they can have a healthy happy relationship with their loved one and/or encourage a positive connection with children in the family. Shortly after an abuse incident, a perpetrator may seem quite contrite, cooperative, and willing to change. In these cases, victims don't obtain orders of protection because they may harbor great hope that their loved one will stop the abuse. However, given time, they may begin to see the abuse pattern of behavior is continuing and they may realize they, and their children, are still in danger. The extended window ensures the order of protection is still available to them in the event the perpetrator does not follow through on change efforts, and is still a threat.

For the above reasons, the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) strongly support HB 3117. HB 3117 enhances community safety and further empowers victims to more effectively manage their personal safety and the safety of their children and other loved ones.

Thank you for your consideration.

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