

April 2, 2019

Senator Frederick  
Representative McLain  
Senator Roblan  
Senator Thomsen  
Representative Alonso León  
Representative Drazan  
Representative Meek  
Representative Nearman

Re: Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) budget bill - HB 5024

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education members:

This letter is written in support of the Domestic Violence Clinical Legal Education fund. Failure to provide continued funding would likely result in the decimation of this valuable program. As a University of Oregon – Law graduate and Domestic Violence Clinic participant, I have first-hand knowledge of the importance of retaining the Clinic for the benefit of future law students and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Clinic provides invaluable education regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, provides representation to low-income survivors who may otherwise not be able to receive assistance during this critical moment in their lives, and also provides law students with practical attorney/client, case preparation, and trial skills.

I graduated in 2004 and was the recipient of the Michael A. Johnson Award. After graduation, I went back to Wisconsin where I clerked for a judge, was in private practice and eventually became an Assistant District Attorney for the State of Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, I served on the board of directors for a local domestic violence clinic, represented victims of domestic violence and stalking while in private practice, and prosecuted offenders of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault as an Assistant District Attorney. In 2011, I was hired as the Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Dependency and Child Support Units in Lincoln County. My Husband and I subsequently moved to Bend after he was hired as a Deputy District Attorney in Deschutes County. Since living in Deschutes County, I have gone back into private family law practice, have served on the Deschutes County Domestic Violence Council, and am a Big Sister volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters, where I focus on helping young adult women learn the skills to be successful, self-sufficient, adults. In addition to my private practice, I was appointed as the presiding judge for the City of Bend in 2016 and reappointed in 2018.

The training and experience I received through the DV clinic has been invaluable throughout my career. The Clinic has made a positive difference in my life and in the lives of countless others. It is crucial, for the superb education of Clinic students and continued representation to low-income victims, that the Higher Education Coordinating Committee continue to fund the University of Oregon Domestic Violence Clinic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*s/ Gwen M. Moore*

**Gwen M. Moore**

Phillips & Moore, LLP

132 SW Crowell Way, Suite 200

Bend, OR 97702

541.385.0505

[gmoore@bendfamilylaw.com](mailto:gmoore@bendfamilylaw.com)