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jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: University of Oregon Domestic Violence Clinic/HB 5024

To Whom it May Concern:

I attended the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon over a two year span during my 2L and 3L years. I graduated from the University of Oregon with my JD in May 2017. I am currently working in a private family law firm in Reno, Nevada. I am writing this letter to address HB 5024 and the University of Oregon Domestic Violence Clinic.

My experience during my time with the Domestic Violence Clinic was priceless and by far my most enlightening experience during my time in law school. The Clinic not only taught me the foundation of how domestic violence impacts our communities, but it also provided me with an excellent environment to actually practice what I learned. I had the opportunity to meet with domestic violence survivors and have an actual impact on their case and life. Our Clinic did not always get the outcome we wanted, but I know that our clients had a better shot with us, then if they were alone.

The instructors/attorneys/students/etc. involved with the Domestic Violence Clinic are some of the hardest working individuals I have ever had the pleasure to associate with. They do the work they do to provide support for domestic violence survivors, not for glory or monetary gains. Everyone associated with the Clinic does so because of their passion for the work. I know 100% from experience that this Clinic provides a much needed service for a population of the community that feels like they do not have any support.

Since my time working at the Domestic Violence Clinic, I have been able to apply everything I learned into my career. I have worked with numerous domestic violence survivors during my short career, and without the tools and knowledge I was provided by the Clinic, I would not have been the advocate my clients needed. I have also had the pleasure to pass on the lessons I learned to colleagues in my area.

Not only is it important that the University keeps the Domestic Violence Clinic, but it must have stable funding. It is very important to have stability in this program to allow the school to hire and retain qualified instructors and recruit top law students.

If you have any questions or need any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Coleman Manson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Coleman Manson, Esq.