

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary committee

I am grateful that you are hearing and considering the passage of HB 3117A, which would ensure implementation of the purpose of Oregon's Family Abuse Protection Act.

I am an advocate at the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, serving victims and survivors—of any gender — who have been subject to domestic and sexual violence.

I have accompanied many survivors of domestic violence to court for ex parte hearings for Family Abuse Protection Act orders. I have seen the relief on their faces when FAPA orders are granted and they realize that they have obtained a form of protection from the violence they have experienced.

I have also heard the panic in their voices when they discover that the FAPA order is being contested and the safety that is in place because of the FAPA is suddenly at risk. The safety they are experiencing is likely a direct result of the order preventing the abuser from contacting them and their children. With the statute as it currently stands, that safety could be suddenly ripped away by a judge's order, leaving them in greater danger than ever.

Trying to leave a violent abuser is the most dangerous time for a survivor and their children. In fact, just filing for protection orders is extremely dangerous for victims; they do not go through the process lightly.

As a way to protect victims of domestic violence and their children, HB 3117A makes a reasonable change to current law to ensure that victims do not lose FAPA protection when the order successfully provides protection and safety.

I ask you to support HB 3117A to provide critical protection for victims and survivors of domestic violence

Thank you for taking the time to consider the perspective of victims of domestic violence who most often live in fear for their lives.

With gratitude,

beth

**Beth Hope** ([she/her pronouns](#))

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