

To Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee.

I am a sexual assault survivor living as a resident of the state of Oregon. I support this bill because it gives survivors the power to move on without having to experience trauma over and over again every year. It gives people in our community protection and support when they need it most. It also prevents serial abusers from hiding and avoiding being served the restraining order paperwork year after year.

- Why is this Bill Important:

- > Having sexual assault survivors go back to court to renew their restraining orders annually is traumatic. This restraining order needs to be extended.
- > Protecting vulnerable people, children, survivors of repeat sexual assault offenders, survivors of sexual assault by family is important and their protection deserves to be permanent.
- > Seeking out one's sexual assaulter when they are intentionally evading being served is extremely traumatic for the sexual assault survivors.

- What does it remedy:

- > It prevents the responsibility of keeping themselves safe fall on the sexual assault survivors.
- > It protects the most vulnerable in the community, especially those who have jobs that do not allow them to take days off to go to court to keep having to renew it annually.
- > It prevents a SAPO from being considered null if the sexual assault survivor cannot get their assaulter served even after due diligence of trying to get them served.

- My position on this Bill is that I support it and I would like it to get passed.

- I support SB995.

Link to SB995 (previously SB482):

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB995>

Sincerely,
Wispra Smith