

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

I am a supporter of sexual assault survivors and I would like to write in my testimony of support for SB 995.

I have a number of very close and dear friends who have been victims of sexual assault. I've seen first hand the emotional trauma and hardship they struggle with long after the act itself. SB 995 is important because it will extend the length of restraining orders placed upon their assaulters. At present, having survivors go back to court annually to renew their restraining orders is truly an ordeal. I had no idea this needed to be done until speaking more with my friends, I cannot imagine how traumatic the experience is. And knowing their assaulters must be sought out each year to be served papers anew, that they often try to evade being served, is doubly traumatic on victims. This bill would protect vulnerable individuals - children, survivors who have been targeted by predators (repeat offenders), and survivors of sexual assault by family by making such restraining orders permanent.

For my friends and so many others, this bill will prevent the responsibility of keeping themselves safe from falling solely on their shoulders. It will protect the most vulnerable members of the community — those who may not be able to take the time off work to go to court and renew annually. And it prevents SAPO from being considered null if the survivor cannot get their assaulter served even after due diligence.

Honestly, I've never written in to support legislation before, but I owe it to my friends who have suffered to lend my voice in support of SB995. I believe these changes would provide them the protection they need, and importantly give them a fighting chance in finding the time to heal.

Here is a link to SB995, previously SB482. <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/.../2019.../Measures/Overview/SB995>

Sincerely,  
Peter Chee