

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee: This is my personal testimony.

In May of 2015 I received a phone call from my wife as she lay in a hospital to inform me she had been sexually assaulted. You may be asking yourself what does this have to do with HB4065. Let me explain, she had received a ticket and due to her mental being at the time was the last thing on her mind, we had court appearances, doctors appointments, therapy appointments and every day life that was going on. The end result? Fine missed and a failure to appear fine added onto this.

What came next? Well she lost her job, and now we couldn't afford to make any additional payments. She still had court hearings, doctors appointments to attend but couldn't without driving illegally as I work full time and we had no other option or assistance. The Police knew her car, kept pulling her over issuing ticket after ticket knowing she was paying fines and the city would get their monthly payments.

Her court hearings took over 4 years (yes I said 4 years) to finally be resolved as her attacker kept delaying the judicial process knowing how to play the system and he is a multiple felon.

We are able to pay our city \$100 per month on the outstanding fines but due to the loss of license it is very hard for her to find any meaningful long term employment which would make paying off the fines move at a quicker pace.

There are several situations like ours that face our community members every day. For people like David S Wall and all others who are opposing this bill put yourself in someone else's shoes who are effected by this and come back and tell me you still feel the same way.

We were told "Sorry, we can help you, you don't have children that this impacts or Sorry your husband makes too much money for us to help you, or Sorry there aren't any services available at this time. We sucked it up and dredged along.

We didn't ask for her to be sexually assaulted.

We didn't ask for the court hearings to be drug on over 4 years
We didn't ask for her to lose her job
We didn't ask for the unwanted burden of someone else's actions.
We didn't ask for the physical and emotional scars that will effect us
the rest of our lives.

Please support this bill and help thousands of Oregonian's with
situations like ours, we're not asking to sweep fines under the rug,
we're simply asking you to allow people to avoid the never ending
debt trap that is currently in place.

My wife will be turning 48 years old this year, she has come to grips
that she may never be allowed to drive again. When this bill was
introduced, it gave us a little hope that it could change, but it will not
change unless this bill is signed into law.

On behalf of those who are too ashamed to speak up or have no
means of making their voice heard, we thank you for considering this
bill.