



**To: Members of the House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
From: The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center
RE: HB 2575**

March 2, 2021

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Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, Representative Dexter, Representative Lewis, and Representative Wilde:

The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center is a nonprofit legal clinic whose five staff attorneys and affiliated pro bono counsel provide free legal representation to crime victims to help them assert their rights in criminal cases and to advocate for them in related matters. OCVLC is writing to offer its support of HB 2575.

One of the many impacts often suffered by the crime victims we represent is acute and chronic psychological trauma. This trauma can manifest itself in many ways, including difficulty remembering or relating the traumatic event, difficulty with attention and focus, emotional dysregulation, hypervigilance, and varied behavioral responses. Unfortunately, these common, trauma-related characteristics are often misunderstood by those engaging with victims of violence in their greatest time of need. These misunderstandings often can and do result in a victim left feeling unsupported, isolated, and frustrated with the criminal justice system.

House Bill 2575 proposes two very important components that serve to support one another in improving trauma-informed services to crime victims by law enforcement and other partners who work with and within the criminal justice system: the creation of Model Best Practices under the leadership of The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, and the creation of a Model Training Program and distribution of training funds by the Oregon Department of Justice. HB 2750 could greatly improve the experience of crime victims when they engage with the criminal justice system. For that reason, OCVLC supports HB 2575 and encourages your support of the bill as well.

Respectfully,

Rosemary W. Brewer
**Rosemary W. Brewer
Executive Director**