



Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

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March 30, 2021

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center, I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 766, which modifies the expiration date of a Sexual Assault Protective Order obtained by a minor and better protects the victim's sexual assault history when alternative methods of service are used. OCVLC fully supports SB 766 as an important technical fix to protect victims' privacy.

OCVLC is a nonprofit organization that provides free legal representation and advocacy to crime victims throughout Oregon. While we represent victims of all crimes, the majority of our clients are victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. We regularly see the impact these crimes have on victims, with long-lasting trauma that effects nearly every aspect of a victim's life. Privacy and protection are two of the greatest areas of concern for these victims as they try to recover from the crimes against them.

There are two important privacy concerns addressed by SB 766. Under the current law, a minor who files for a SAPO risks his or her personally-identifying information being released to the offender. SB 766 would correct this by changing the expiration date of the SAPO to January 1 of the year after the victim turns 18, allowing the victim to keep their date of birth private. Second, under the current law a victim's sexual assault history could be released publically if service on a respondent is completed by an alternate method. Service by alternative method involves posting the petition for a SAPO in a public setting, the courthouse. SB 766 changes the requirements for alternate services by providing that a court may effect service through the use of a summons, which better protects a victim's sexual assault history. Allowing a victim to maintain some privacy is critical to their ability to recover from the trauma these crimes inflict.

Sexual Assault Protective Orders are vitally important to victims of sexual assault who may not be eligible to access any other type of protection. SB 766 improves access to safety and protection for victims who may be reluctant to apply for a SAPO under the current law, which could compromise their privacy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosemary W. Brewer
Executive Director