



We provide comprehensive family violence and sexual assault services in Central Oregon and promote the value of living life free from violence.

April 02, 2021

Subject: Yes on HB 5014, DOJ Budget to assist survivors with housing needs

Greetings Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sollman, and members of the committee,

My name is Beth Jacobi. I am the Housing Coordinator for Saving Grace. Established in 1977, Saving Grace provides comprehensive services to survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. We serve survivors throughout Central Oregon. Saving Grace strongly supports HB 5014. Passage of this bill is essential to the safety and stability of the survivors we serve.

Access to affordable and stable housing is a significant barrier to the safety of our clients. Over the past year housing needs have become even more acute in Central Oregon. In December of 2019, funding from the Oregon Department of Justice enabled us to develop a Survivor Housing Program to assist survivors in accessing and maintaining safe and stable long-term housing. From the foundation of a stable home, survivors and their children can be safe and focus on rebuilding their lives and creating a better future for themselves and their families.

Passage of HB 5014 would allow our program, and domestic and sexual violence programs across the state, to continue to address both the imminent danger of violence and the often-imminent threat of becoming unhoused. In 2019, both the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women and the National Network to End Domestic Violence found housing stability to be the greatest issue and unmet need facing survivors in Oregon.

Passage of HB 5014 will help to ensure that survivors are not in the position of choosing between homelessness or remaining in a violent household. Everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home.

As the housing crisis continues in our state, we are grateful to the lawmakers who are prioritizing the health and safety of victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence with this legislation. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Beth Jacobi

She/her/ hers

Housing Coordinator at **Saving Grace**

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**"I truly believe that each and every one of you are angels and have saved my life."
- Survivor & Saving Grace client**