

womenspace

safety, hope and healing for survivors of domestic violence

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

April 22, 2021

Evelyn Salinas Castro
President

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Mary Bartlett
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My name is Julie Weismann and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Womenspace. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Tom Kulick
Secretary

Womenspace, located in Eugene, provides domestic violence support services for survivors of all genders in Lane County.

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I am here to ask for your support for a \$10 million increase in funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services fund (ODSVS) within the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division of the Department of Justice.

Aimee Walsh

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

The ODSVS fund is the only General Fund source of dollars for confidential shelter, support, and safety planning services for survivors and their children. ODSVS is the fund that provides stability to keep the doors open at the confidential emergency shelters, the 24-hour hotlines, and maintain advocacy services.

Julie Weismann

P.O. Box 50127
Eugene, Oregon
97405

ODSVS funds are critically important to our organization. We would not be able to provide shelter, support, and safety planning services to the thousands of survivors and their children we serve each year. ODSVS also provides culturally specific funds to Centro Latino Americano to provide services for the Latinx population in Lane County, as well as Oregon Tribes and other DV/SA programs throughout state.

Office: 541-485-8232
Fax: 541-686-6664

24 Hour Crisis Line:
541-485-6513

Of special importance are the **Survivor Housing funds** to provide emergency assistance to survivors at imminent risk of homelessness or unstably or unsafely housed.

Womenspace is a
501(c)3 nonprofit.
Tax ID. 93-0692905

The need for emergency assistance is great! Move in costs are becoming insurmountable for many survivors. Until we have more affordable housing, we will need access to flexible funds like the increased deposits leveled by landlords for poor rental history or bad credit. These are in addition to standard security deposits and are typically equal to one month's rent. Having access to these flexible funds helps survivors get into stable housing.

Please support ODSVS and Survivor Housing funds to your greatest capacity, to ensure that survivors in your communities have access to emergency shelter, expert safety-planning, housing stability, and wrap-around support services. These services help victims identify and explore real options to escape violence. These services save lives.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Julie Weismann, CEO

The mission of Womenspace is to prevent domestic violence in intimate partner relationships in Lane County and to support survivors in claiming personal power.