



“Dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault through intervention, prevention, education and safe shelter.”

**House Committee on Judiciary Support
SB 766
May 14, 2021**

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsey Bosman and I am the Crisis Intervention Program Coordinator of the Women’s Crisis Support Team. We are the primary domestic violence and sexual assault agency that serves Josephine County. Our mission is that we are dedicated to end domestic violence and sexual assault through intervention, prevention, education and safe shelter.

Women’s Crisis Support Team is pleased to support SB 766, which will provide important technical fixes to Oregon’s Sexual Abuse Protective Order (SAPO).

In 2020, our agency received about 1,200 crisis calls, and advocates assisted in helping almost 100 survivors of sexual assault. Our advocates take a survivor-centered approach when working with survivors of sexual violence. We work to mitigate trauma for survivors, and educate them on their resources and remedies available to them. One of those forms for relief is the Sexual Abuse Prevention Order. The SAPO is available to survivors who were subjected to unwanted sexual abuse by an individual who is not a family member or intimate partner. The SAPO provides an order of protection for adults and minors who are otherwise not eligible to request another type of restraining order in the state of Oregon, but still need additional measures in place to ensure their safety.

The first fix by SB 766 addresses private information being released for minors. Currently, the SAPO expires after five years, or whenever the petitioner turns 19, whichever is later. This means that a minor who petitions would have an order that expires on their 19th birthday, ultimately revealing that minors birth date. This potential risk of releasing personally identifying information is a privacy issue for the minor and a violation of federal law. In order to protect the survivor and prevent the releasing of private information, the SAPO needs to expire the year after a minor turns 18, on January 1st. This will ensure their personal identifying information stays concealed from the respondent and any others who view the court documents.

The second fix that needs to be changed is eliminating the risk of a survivor’s assault history potentially being released to the public when a respondent is served by alternative methods. Generally, when the SAPO is served, the respondent receives the SAPO petition, order and request for a hearing. Included in the petition is detailed information by the petitioner describing the sexual abuse they endured. If alternative methods of service were used, then those extremely private matters would possibly become public information. SB 766 would allow the court a use of summons instead of the petition for alternative means of service, with notification to the respondent on where to get the remaining detailed documents.

Survivor safety and maintaining confidentiality is at the heart of what we do. SB 766 will ensure that those seeking legal protections remain autonomous of what personal information of theirs gets shared and limits who has access to it. Protection orders are crucial to reducing domestic and sexual violence in our community and state-wide. Our advocates are proud to support individuals who petition for these orders and hope that they continue to do so without hesitation or fear of personally identifying information being released.

Women's Crisis Support Team proudly supports SB 766 and hope you will join us in supporting it as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Bosman

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