

Hello Chair Representative Bynum, Vice-Chair Representative Noble and members of the council. My name is Diana Marie Ogaz Gutman. I first want to take a moment to acknowledge the original host people of these lands: The Kalalapua, the Clatskanie, the Chinook and the Clackamas.

I am a disabled Veteran who fought for our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am a soldier a Veteran. I am a Survivor of war. A Survivor of trafficking, a Survivor of rape. A Survivor of physical violence. I am a Survivor of homelessness. I am A Survivor of trauma.

I have proposed House Bill 2747. We call it the Peace of Mind Bill because should this bill be passed, that's exactly what it will do for Survivors: create peace of mind.

When I filed for my protection order against the person who trafficked and raped me, it was the only thing I could do to keep myself safe in the state of Oregon. My rapist took me outside of the country, into Canada, to commit this crime against me, creating an international jurisdictional nightmare, and preventing a Criminal No-contact Order from ever existing.

As soon as I filed for a sexual assault protection order, the man who trafficked and raped me immediately contested it, and dragged the appeals process along for 9 months. Over those 9 months, I had to attend court 10 times all together. He dragged the process out by providing an incorrect mailing address; having a car accident to avoid a detective collecting a DNA sample; refusing to provide a DNA sample until the day of a scheduled hearing, thus postponing that day's hearing; and in the end (9 months later, after seeing no physical changes to my body, and that I would not give up fighting for this protection), simply sending a lawyer to say he wasn't going to fight anymore because the whole process was going to be over in less than 3 months anyway.

My entire schedule was centered around these court dates. Even though I had this protection order to where I shouldn't have had to see my attacker, I had to face him every time we had to face him in court. When he dropped the appeal, at no loss to himself, that only left me with 2 and a half months of not having to see him before I had to go back into court and refile and hope and pray that my protection order would be renewed. Devastatingly it was not.

I know that this bill won't change my circumstance or situation or experience, but all Survivors need to have the peace of mind that these protection orders are intended to provide, and this bill would ensure that.

Additionally though, even for those who give no regard to the wellbeing of Survivors, this bill benefits All Constituents in the state of Oregon by saving taxpayer money, and court docket time. This bill will prevent abusers from wasting court time with frivolous appeals, freeing up docket space and court staff time. When a new expiration date is set, the court will not have to address the issue again for a full year.

For all these reasons, please consider also making this bill an emergency. For the Survivor it will always be an emergency, and emergency passage would immediately begin saving the court's time.

-Chi Miigwetch
Diana Marie Ogaz Gutman