

**In support of HB 2754  
D Howden, Co-located and Outreach Supervisor**

Chair Williams, Vice Chairs Leif and Ruiz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is D Howden, and I am the Co-located and Outreach Supervisor for the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). Our agency serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion County and surrounding areas.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2754, specifically in support of the Survivor Investment Partnership Policy Option Package #130 (SIP POP #130).

Our agency has been a part of the Oregon Co-located Advocate program since its founding with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and we believe this package in the Governor's Recommended Budget would greatly help survivors in our area and across the state. In our agency's experience, we've seen incredible value in partnering with ODHS, ongoing education around ODHS programs and services, and deeper partnerships with the ODHS offices in our area.

We also have experienced many situations while partnering with culturally specific organizations where they could have greatly benefited from having co-located services within their own agencies. In my personal experience as a co-located advocate and supervisor over the last five years, there have been many instances working directly with survivors where having access to culturally specific co-located services would have been a benefit and support for survivors.

We support respecting the autonomy of tribal nations and culturally specific organizations and believe that they know best how to serve their communities. Additionally, this would give victims and survivors who feel most comfortable contacting culturally specific services access to additional support around ODHS programs.

Across Oregon, this bill would also provide flexible funding to meet the needs of survivors in every community. This would allow programs to fill in the gaps in supports currently offered by other agencies and programs. While working with victims and survivors, it is often a small, specific financial barrier keeping someone from finding safety and stability. This flexible funding would allow programs to meet the unique needs of each situation and help survivors rebuild their lives free of violence.

For these reasons, I urge your support on House Bill 2754.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am available for any questions you might have.

D Howden  
Co-located and Outreach Supervisor  
Center for Hope & Safety  
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# Center for HOPE & SAFETY



*Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

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*because everyone deserves a life free of violence*