



VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

February 3, 2022

Re: Submission of Meg Garvin, Executive Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute & Clinical Professor of Law, in Support of House Bill 4110

Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am the Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) and a Clinical Professor of Law at Lewis & Clark Law School. NCVLI, which is based at Lewis & Clark, is a nonprofit legal education and advocacy agency that works nationally to promote victims' rights and victims' voices in justice systems through crime victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing. NCVLI routinely participates in public policy discussions, trains on victims' rights, and joins state, federal and military cases as amicus curiae when critical victims' rights issues are being determined.

As the Committee is aware, Oregon affords crime victims myriad constitutional and statutory rights that aim to ensure they have "a meaningful role in the criminal and juvenile justice systems," and are "accord[ed] ... due dignity and respect." Or. Const. Art. I, Sec. 42. Among the rights are the rights to protection, to consult with the prosecutor, to be heard at critical stage proceedings, and to restitution. To meaningfully exercise any of these rights requires that crime victims be adequately informed of the facts of the case as understood by others in the system. Law enforcement records contain important case information relating to the crime, information that the prosecution, the defense and the court may rely on in making charging, release, plea, and sentencing decisions. When victims are denied access to important case information that others in the process may use to make decisions, they cannot meaningfully form their views or exercise rights. To fulfill the promise that all crime victims have a meaningful role in the system and are treated with dignity and respect, they must be given access to law enforcement records.

I thank the Committee for considering this important issue and am happy to provide additional information as requested.

Sincerely,

Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MsT