

Submitter: Alexandra Obmanets
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2933

Dear Sir/Madam,

as a community outreach coordinator for Slavic Oregon Social Services, I am committed to my task of informing and educating the Slavic community about the issue of domestic and sexual violence. Last year we managed to serve over 100 people, more than 20 of them became long-term clients. The community remains very responsive to our initiatives and projects. One can see a strong common intention to ease the burden of domestic violence on our community.

It is worth noting that the needs of our community grew over the last 12 months. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the number of representatives of the Slavic population grew in Oregon as well as in neighboring states. Ukrainian men, women and children (whether they are coming to Oregon on the U4U program or not) are facing risks since many of them are fully dependent on their sponsors - financially and emotionally - which already creates situations of tension and potential risks of DV-related situations. We invested a great deal of effort into making our services more inclusive, hiring Ukrainian language specialists and translating a great deal of educational materials into Ukrainian. We also launched a couple of side projects to help new immigrants to adapt in the U.S. (get a job, learn English, rent an apartment). This would make them less dependent on their community peers and relatives and will help them integrate.

We will continue to serve the growing community with all due professionalism and passion. Please support our efforts to make Oregon safer for minorities and especially women who live and work here.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Obmanets
Community Outreach Coordinator
Slavic Oregon Social Services