

Submitter: Illona Kornienko
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2933

Hello. My name is Illona Kornienko, and I am a domestic violence and sexual assault advocate. I work for Slavic Oregon Social Services within Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Working in this field, our team encountered many barriers and needs for accessible, safe, and trauma-informed services. I have the privilege of directly working with the clients and openly discussing their needs, challenges, fears, dreams, and hopes. Our mission is to serve our community and support people on their journeys to self-sufficiency; however, existing barriers make this very difficult for people to sustain. As an advocate, I see many needs to have affordable, stable, and secure housing for our clients, educational and job search resources, culturally specific mental health organizations, community building and preventative work, and more culturally particular representatives within the legal system. Also, there is a lot of need for support with child care and child support. However, for the last year, I noticed a decline in opportunities for people to experience equitable services. There is also a decline in people who wants to work in the field of DV/AS while the needs are constantly growing. We need more support and attention to each other because every person and every community has a right to a thriving and happy life.