

I personally witnessed one of my dear friends as she was forced into court repeatedly over the course of nine months. After nine months the predator (of whom she is terrified) who had forced her to face him in court multiple times, sent his lawyer to withdraw his motion to contest, because the year would be over shortly, and it would be time for renewal. The process started all over just a few months later, reigniting his power to traumatize her.

I watched a second friend (in another part of Oregon) forgo a protection order because of fear that her abusive ex would force her to jump through the same hoops as the first friend. He would have been able to trap her in Redmond, and when the process was over, her order might have only lasted a couple months anyways. Because she didn't have a protective order, she was disqualified from receiving support from any of the DV Survivor support organizations she was able to find. This left her homeless and more vulnerable than she already was.

If this bill were already law, my first friend would have had time to begin healing without being forced to rearrange her schedule to face her attacker in court so soon. My second friend might not have been too intimidated by a potentially drawn out process to file.

This bill has no downsides. It will increase efficiency by keeping decided matters off the court docket for a year after the decision, and will take power away from those who would use the legal system to terrorize.

Please vote in favor of SB816 The Peace of Mind bill.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Tweedy