

Submitter: Karen Cain
On Behalf Of: Oregon CURE
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1070

Hello Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

As I imagine you must know, here in Oregon, for many survivors of domestic abuse, their victimization is a direct pathway to incarceration, and with more than one third of women having experienced domestic violence in our state, this is touching the lives of far too many women and their children.

When a survivor of domestic abuse becomes a criminal defendant, their status as survivor. their being a victim in need of support and care, is no longer recognized by the criminal justice system. They are prosecuted and sentenced without consideration of the impact that the domestic violence had on them or on their children.

Because Oregon's sentencing laws do not adequately allow judges to consider the impact of domestic violence on survivors, the end result in court is often times an unjust and excessively long term in prison, where these survivors are continuously retraumatized by an environment that resembles the abusive relationships from which they came.

This has got to stop!

I support, as does Oregon CURE, SB 1070 which will allow for more just sentencing for survivors of domestic violence who become criminal defendants by virtue of the abuse they suffered.

Let this be the much needed step toward the needed care and support for incarcerated survivors the Oregon deserves to have.

Thank you for your time and your service to our great state.

Respectfully,

Karen Cain

President, Oregon CURE