

Submitter: Deb DesLaurier
On Behalf Of: SB 1070
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1070

My name is Deb DesLaurier and I was a victim of domestic violence that has been the unspoken truth for far too long. I spent at least 30% of my adult life dealing with domestic violence resulting in mental illness that I will deal with for the rest of my life. Fortunately, for me, loss of life came to pass from our explosive domestic violence situation, which could have very differently resulted from simply a lack of time to consider what could happen. SB 1070 can be said to be a dream come true for a woman at war for her own freedom. Freedom to have a voice, freedom to make a choice, and freedom to prevent having to make a choice that is unbelievable even to herself. This bill can be said to be the "Me Too" movement of women who suffer from the war against her own being. Not one woman should ever have to suffer the deep wounds of domestic violence, and even greater than that, not one child should ever have to suffer the wounds of domestic violence. This is not anything new when it comes to so called crimes of passion because that's what many of the crimes associated with domestic violence are stigmatized as, when in fact, they have become a crime of, it was either my life or his/her life, and my children need their mother/father, especially now. For the judicial system to sustain trials of these women at war to survive and not allow domestic violence into the realm of the trial is unconscionable, but it happens. It happens too many times to mention them all. The children of these trials are losing not only fathers, but mothers who many times just want to protect themselves and their children. I understand there are consequences for committing a crime, but also what level of discipline should they be sentenced to? Most of all, how many of their children must be mistreated miserably through the foster care system to scar them for the rest of their lives because of the injustice of it all. I laid in a bunk at the local correctional facility for women for nearly 5 years and heard the sobs and screams of mothers having their children stolen from them by DHS simply because they were babies and they were cute, and most of all, they were adoptable. These women, who are clean and sober, healthy, and doing what they were expected to do. Upon talking with these women, DHS had no desire to work with them, for these women were portrayed as inmates. Sure on the outside we were Adults In Custody (AIC), but inside as it was printed in big orange letters on our shirt, our pants, our jacket, we were "INMATES." As that, we were the worst and didn't deserve any conversation for reform or classes to prepare us to deal with the hard life issues that each of us had to contend with on the outside. Mothers being told to simply sign the papers because if you don't, we will just take it to a judge to order you to do it. If one of these mothers and their children can be saved from this glitch of injustice by simply allowing reports of domestic violence enter into a trial of a woman or man, please speak up for them now, before it happens to another like my friend Crystal Magana, who made a decision in one moment of time to save her own life. In

saving her from the injustice she recieved, it would have saved her child from years of physical and sexual assault through the foster care system. You as our elected officials cannot say one more time that these horrible instances are not happening within the foster care system any longer. The cases against DHS are adding up as I type this plea to you one last time. The decision is an easy one for these mothers/fathers of domestic violence and children will show them that as you hear, "Me too," coming from them, you will know who you are hearing it from. Do the right vote to pass SB 1070 and the me toos of today will thank you for years to come in making the decision of a lifetime for these human beings of this great state of Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration. PLEASE REPLACE PREVIOUS SUBMISSION