

# **Testimony in Support**

*Senate Bill 1070*

## **Representative Dacia Grayber - House District 28**

Colleagues, members of the committee:

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 1070, which requires that Oregon courts consider as mitigating evidence whether a person was subject to domestic abuse that was a contributing factor in criminal behavior. If this is shown to be true, a judge is authorized to impose a downward departure sentence should they see fit.

Ensuring this type of flexibility exists for our courts is critical to serving justice in Oregon. While we do not condone criminal behavior, being subjected to domestic abuse is a personal torment that few of us can possibly imagine, and that more Oregonians endure than we likely realize.

Should that abuse directly contribute to criminal behavior, whether that is through coercion, threat, or as self-defense, that fact should be taken into the court's deliberation. If that crime is seen in a new light with that evidence in play, that should similarly come into account during sentencing, to the extent that it can supersede minimum sentencing.

We must do what we can to protect those who are most vulnerable in our state, and ensure that justice is served. Domestic abuse survivors need that help, and deserve our fair consideration.

I encourage you to lend your support to Senate Bill 1070 and vote in favor.

Thank you,

Representative Dacia Grayber