

Submitter: Rosemary Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive. That's why I support Fair Shot for All's People's Budget—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and economic justice framework.

In particular, as the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC), I urge you to support full funding for HB 3018 (Survivor Housing Funds) and HB 2933 (Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund) in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, to ensure continued access to vital life-saving community-based, culturally-specific, and Tribal Nation shelter and housing services for survivors of domestic or sexual violence and their children.

Funding for HB 2933 ensures that basic emergency shelter and safety planning advocacy services for survivors are not cut. On a daily basis, these services save the lives of victims/survivors who are in crisis.

Funding for HB 3018 ensures that housing advocacy and placement assistance for survivors is not cut. These services help victims/survivors, and their children move into or stay stable in safe housing as they begin to transition out of the trauma filled existence that their abuse has caused.

These issues are important to me because in 2022, the staff and volunteers at DVRC provided 11,649 crisis services and responded on the phone to 5,469 crisis calls. We provided 5,040 safe nights for survivors in our shelters and helped survivors to create 1,168 safety plans. DVRC also provided 1,681 individual counseling sessions and we were able to support 248 survivors with financial assistance for housing.

In closing, I ask you to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in these key priorities. Oregon's reserves are already healthy and strong. Rather than saving more for a future Rainy Day, we need to make investments now. We create widespread economic opportunity for all when we invest in access to safety and services for our communities.

I urge you to support full funding for HB 2933 and HB 3018 and the other policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,

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