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February 8, 2024

*Re: Victims' Rights Package (HB 4146):*

- *Closes the loophole to better protect victims of revenge porn;*
- *Allows certain restraining orders to be filed in the county where the abuse took place;*

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), we are pleased to submit testimony in support of the Victims' Rights Package (HB 4146) closing the revenge porn loophole and increasing access to protection orders.

The mission of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first domestic violence shelter, CWS is a community-based organization providing comprehensive, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, elder and vulnerable adult abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and stalking.

Revenge porn subjects its victims to significant psychological and physical harm, the impacts of which can be severe. The current Oregon statute requires that victims of revenge porn be "identifiable" in the explicit photos shared of them. This has led to instances where courts cannot convict perpetrators because the victims were not identifiable in the photos, even when perpetrators admit that the shared photos were of the victim. With technological advances and the modern-day influence of social media, closing this loophole is critical to protecting the safety of victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

Currently, domestic violence and sexual assault survivors can only file for restraining orders in the counties where they live, or where their abusers live. Supporting this package will allow survivors the option to also file where the abuse occurred. This expansion will protect more survivors of sexual and domestic violence, including in instances such as abuse taking place while the survivor is attending college.

For the above reasons, we hope you will support the Victims' Rights Package (HB 4146) to close the revenge porn loophole and expand access to protective orders. HB 4146 ensures better protection for victims and increased accountability for perpetrators. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Erlbaum".

Melissa Erlbaum  
Executive Director