



HOME
Free

2/7/2024

Re: HB 4156 Relating to stalking; prescribing and effective date

Dear Representatives Mannix, McLain, Evans, Lewis, and others,

My name is Christina McGovney, the Program Director of Home Free with Volunteers of America Oregon in the Portland Metro region. Home Free, our domestic and sexual violence program, where we offer essential lifesaving services to our community. We focus on all sides of the issue of ending violence in our community through prevention education and confidential youth advocacy, to immediate crisis and safety situations to help survivors flee from violence and access safer motels or shelters, and housing programming and long-term stabilization supports which include economic empowerment programming. All our services are 100% free, voluntary, and confidential. We have several out stationed programs with advocates in Portland Public High Schools, advocates embedded within health clinics, and advocates operating out of the Multnomah County Courthouse. We have three hotlines: Our Emergency Services Hotline, our Restraining Order Hotline, and our Portland Public Schools hotline.

I am writing to day to show my support for a crucial house bill that support survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking across our state. I support all the nonprofits in my community that do the critical lifesaving work helping survivors flee from abusive situations and rebuild their lives after experiencing physical violence, emotional and psychological abuse, economic abuse, spiritual abuse, coercion, reproductive coercion, and so much more.

I encourage you to support HB 4156 which will update definitions pertaining to stalking orders and stalking offenses by contemplating the increasing use of technology. Increasingly, technology is being used to stalk victims in new and harmful ways. Stalking behavior is an indicator of lethality, and inflicts significant physical, economic, psychological injury on its victims. This bill would support increases penalties for the crimes of stalking and violating a court's stalking protective order in certain circumstances.

Please support HB 4156 to increase safety for survivors and accountability for perpetrators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina McGovney".

Christina McGovney
Program Director
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Home Free
Emergency Hotline:
(503) 771-5503

**Restraining Order
Services:**
(503) 802-0506
homefreecourt@voaor.org

Administrative Office
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Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 235-8655
Fax: (503) 239-6233
Web: www.voaor.org

Home Free is the domestic and sexual violence program of Volunteers of America Oregon, serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

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