

Submitter: Amber Rosenberry

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB4156

Good morning, Speaker, Chair, and all the honorable Legislators that are participating in this process:

My name is Amber Rosenberry. I am a resident of Aloha, OR. I am the current Ms Oregon, and I initiated the request for House Bill 4156.

First, I would like to celebrate all the Representatives and colleagues who have supported this journey.

This change is designed to reduce stalking-related homicides, and deter potential stalkers before they start. Oregon is ready to join all the other states that have already modernized their stalking laws.

Stalking is no longer just a stranger lurking in the shadows. Stalking is a major component of human trafficking, to prevent a victim from leaving the situation. Stalking is a major component of domestic violence, to prevent a victim from leaving the relationship. Stalking often occurs up after a couple breaks up and one person targets their ex's new partner. Stalking is often an estranged family member demanding access to the family.

The death last year of Kenny Fandrich in Hillsboro demonstrates why these updates are urgent and necessary. Kenny had a protection order against his stalker. His stalker violated that order. His stalker was still free because the first violation was simply a misdemeanor. His stalker killed him. Kenny would be alive if these updates were made last year. I am speaking for him today, and for hundreds of victims I've interviewed and cases I've studied.

The harrowing reality of being stalked in Oregon is that law enforcement cannot do much until an assault or homicide occur. Victims usually know who is stalking them, but cannot obtain a protection order until the source can be proven in a court of law. Modern technology requires a lengthy series of warrants and evidence gathering.

During the months, or even years, these investigations drag out, victims live in a state of terror. And the victims are expected to make drastic lifestyle changes to protect themselves. For me, I had to change my job, my routines, my friends, my car, and sleep at other people's houses. I was cut off from my bank accounts and email

accounts. I was afraid to use my phone, computer, or GPS in case he was monitoring. I got off at the wrong exits and drove in circles until I was sure I wasn't being followed. I was awake every night worrying about the safety of dozens of friends whose homes, careers, children, and pets were being threatened.

But I was lucky. I was financially independent, had an extensive support network, and did not have children to protect. Can you imagine what the more vulnerable victims go through? The emotional and psychological toll is immeasurable and irreversible.

I am offering this testimony to show that horrific stalking happens in real life, to real people. This update is the critical first step to bringing Oregon into the modern era. We hope you're excited to make a significant positive impact in the near future, and we are grateful for your support.

Very Respectfully,
Amber Rosenberry (Ms Oregon 2024)