

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

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Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety,

On behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and our Joint Subcommittee on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Statewide Coordination, we urge your support for HB 5014 and POP #327 to continue the current service level in the Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) budget. This critical funding will strengthen essential services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, ensuring that they receive the protection and support they deserve.

One in three Oregonians will experience some form of domestic violence. Transgender people, particularly trans women of color, experience harassment, assault, discrimination, and homicide at significantly higher rates than the overall population. Up to 55% of Asian women in the U.S. have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Black survivors are disproportionately more likely to be criminalized by the legal system. Latino communities face disproportionate barriers to accessing services compared to their white counterparts.

Survivors benefit from culturally and linguistically specialized services - programs funded by DOJ.

These statistics underscore the urgent need for increased funding to sustain and expand life-saving programs such as emergency shelters, legal advocacy, trauma-informed counseling, and crisis intervention services. Organizations providing these services are already overburdened, and without additional resources, survivors will be left without critical support.

Investing in CVSSD is not only a matter of justice but also a strategic economic decision. Survivors who receive timely and comprehensive support are more likely to regain stability, reducing long-term healthcare, legal, and social service costs for the state. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions strongly urge you to approve this funding increase in HB 5014. By doing so, you affirm Oregon's commitment to gender equity, safety, and justice for all.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the well-being of Oregon's women and families. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide any additional information you may need.

Oregon Commission for Women
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

