

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

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

On behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and our Joint Subcommittee on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Statewide Coordination, we stand in strong support of SB 710, which seeks to evaluate and implement domestic and sexual violence education for Oregon's judiciary. As a Joint Subcommittee dedicated to the advancement of gender equity and justice, we recognize the urgent need for a judiciary that is equipped with the necessary knowledge and training to adjudicate cases involving domestic and sexual violence effectively and fairly.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence frequently encounter systemic barriers to justice, including a lack of understanding from decision-makers about the complex nature of abuse and trauma. Judges, who hold immense power in determining the legal outcomes of these cases, must be educated on the nuances of survivor experiences, trauma-informed responses, and the intersectional factors that affect a survivor's ability to seek justice.

SB 710 is a critical measure in strengthening our judicial system and ensuring that it is responsive to the needs of survivors. By prioritizing judicial education on domestic and sexual violence, Oregon can move toward a more equitable and informed legal system.

We respectfully urge your support of SB 710 and appreciate your continued commitment to justice and the protection of survivors across our state.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission for Women

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

