

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

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Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and our Joint Subcommittee on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Statewide Coordination, we urge your support for SB 180, relating to retaliatory actions for defamation. A similar bill, HB 2300, was introduced this session which we believe has language that should be amended into SB 180, to align with the intent of HB 2300, which was drafted in collaboration with advocates. SB 180 seeks to address the issues of perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence who misuse our systems of justice to intimidate and silence victims. Coordinated groups can drive systemic change by implementing policy reforms that limit the use of litigation abuse to intimidate victims.

While current anti-SLAPP laws have been effective in protecting activists and journalists against frivolous lawsuits, they fall short when it comes to victims of sexual violence, intimidation, and retaliation. These laws are not sufficient to address the unique challenges faced by victims, underscoring the necessity of SB 180, with alignment of the language introduced in HB 2300.

We support SB 180, which seeks to establish measures that better protect victims while holding perpetrators accountable for using abuse litigation as a tool to intimidate, harass, or silence victims of sexual abuse.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission for Women

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

