



April 30, 2025

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Hope & Safety Alliance
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As the Executive Director of Hope & Safety Alliance in Eugene, I am writing to express my strong support for continued legislative funding of the University of Oregon's Domestic Violence Clinic. The Clinic is an essential resource for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in our community, and its services remain critically important.

At Hope & Safety Alliance, we provide comprehensive advocacy and support services for survivors of domestic violence throughout Lane County. Many of the individuals who seek our help are in urgent need of legal advice and representations that they often cannot afford to meet due to the economic abuse and isolation they've experienced. We regularly refer survivors to the Domestic Violence Clinic, and our long-standing partnership has greatly improved access to life-saving legal resources.

The Clinic provides high-quality, trauma-informed legal representation in restraining order cases, family law matters, and other civil legal proceedings that are essential to ensuring survivor safety. Beyond direct legal services, the Clinic plays a vital role in training the next generation of attorneys in how to work effectively and compassionately with survivors of abuse. This not only expands current access to legal services but also strengthens the legal field's long-term capacity to serve survivors in Oregon and beyond.

Importantly, the Clinic recognizes the complex and interconnected needs of survivors. Its collaborative relationships with Hope & Safety Alliance and other community organizations ensure that survivors receive wraparound support—legal advocacy, safety planning, emotional support, and more—all coordinated through trusted partnerships.

There remains a significant and ongoing need for free, accessible legal services for low-income survivors in our community. The Domestic Violence Clinic has consistently demonstrated expertise, compassion, and commitment in meeting that need. I respectfully urge the Committee to continue its investment in this critical program, which protects the rights, safety, and dignity of survivors while also shaping the future of equitable, survivor-centered legal practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Lax".

Kim Lax

Executive Director
Hope & Safety Alliance