



February 2, 2023

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Our Children Oregon
RE: Support for HB 2933 & HB 3018

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Member of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is advancing equitable policymaking and whole-child advocacy statewide to ensure our children and youth have what they need, regardless of their race or where they live, to thrive by activating meaningful change for children and families. We collect, analyze, and elevate data and research that, alongside lived experience, drives conversations in support of Oregon's future.

Continued exposure to domestic violence in the home can have the same devastating impacts as direct violence to a child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in homes where violence between partners occurs, there is a 45% to 60% chance of co-occurring child abuse.¹ Children can have adverse effects to their health and development due to witnessing domestic violence, such as lower self-esteem, anxiety, and depression, which can affect their ability to be successful in school and their future relationships.²

The safety of survivors and their children are essential, which is why we strongly support HB 2933 and HB 3018.

HB 2933 will invest \$10 million for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) to help programs across the state continue to provide necessary and lifesaving services. ODSVS distributes funds to 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to provide confidential trauma-informed services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking. These community-based nonprofits support both children and adult survivors with wide-ranging crisis intervention and long-term supportive services, such as emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis line, legal advocacy, counseling, support groups and children's programs. These

¹ <https://oregoncas.org/education/>

² <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/domestic-violence/effects-domestic-violence-children>

programs also provide prevention education in schools as well as training and education throughout the community.

HB 3018 will invest in the Oregon Survivor Housing Funds (SHF). SHF have been instrumental in supporting survivors and their families in finding safe and permanent housing in the midst of a statewide housing shortage, rise in rent costs, and current inflation. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence 2021 Annual Domestic Violence Court Report, Oregon's domestic and sexual violence hotline staff received 475 contacts, averaging nearly 20 contacts per hour in the one-day count.³ During this time, victims made 127 requests for services including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and other support needs, which programs could not provide because they lacked the resources. Approximately 80% of these unmet requests were for housing and emergency shelter. The SHF supports survivors by providing supportive services and the financial assistance resources necessary to address barriers in accessing housing.

We are in support of investing in the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund and Oregon Survivor Housing Funds. ODSVS and SHF fund vital services and programs that help provide necessary and lifesaving services for survivors and children across the state. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge you to support HB 2933 and HB 3018 to ensure that survivors and their families in Oregon have access to safe housing and access to culturally-specific, confidential, and trauma-informed services.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Ivy Major-McDowall, Policy and Advocacy Director

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2023 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2023-childrens-agenda

³ <https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/16th-Annual-Domestic-Violence-Counts-Oregon-Summary-FINAL.pdf>