



February 5th, 2024

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Anderson and Wallan and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of HB 4140. My name is BB Beltran, and I am the Director of Equity and Access for the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. The Oregon coalition was founded in 1978 and its membership is comprised of community-based organizations and tribal nation service providers that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and trafficking. The Oregon coalition works hand in hand with its member programs to provide high quality, trauma informed services to survivors throughout Oregon.

The Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) fund is a lifeline for Oregonians and provides vital sustainability to service providers, survivors and their families. ODSVS funds support emergency shelter, safety planning, counseling, hotlines and crisis intervention advocacy services. Although an essential piece of the safety net, the ODSVS fund has not kept pace with the need for services in Oregon nor inflation. HB 4140 is key to supporting ODSVS by providing an additional \$3 million which would help ensure a robust, trauma informed response to sexual and domestic violence in Oregon.

The Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) is another important resource for programs which work directly with survivors of interpersonal violence. Oftentimes, survivors of domestic and sexual violence face barriers when trying to find a safe living situation such as the housing shortage and the high costs associated with finding and moving into safe housing. The SHF provides: crucial support to survivors seeking safe housing; aids in homelessness prevention; and provides rehousing assistance to help offset the high costs of housing in Oregon. HB 4140 would support the SHF by allocating an additional \$3M which would provide much needed stability to programs and survivors in Oregon.

Everyone can agree that we all want and deserve a safe community. However, to achieve this goal we need the legislature to prioritize funding for survivor services. To that end, I urge you to support HB 4140. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
BB Beltran
Director of Equity & Access