



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Reinvest Savings from Justice Reform into Victim Services (HB 3194)

Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) | Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Programs (CAMI) | System-Based Victims Programs

OREGON'S CURRENT SYSTEM IS NOT SUSTAINABLE:

- In the past decade, Oregon's prison population has grown by nearly 50 percent to over 14,000 inmates and taxpayers now spend more than \$1.3 billion each biennium to pay for corrections.
- Oregon's prison bed population is projected to increase by more than 2,000 beds during the next ten years at a cost of \$600 million.
- Meanwhile, Oregon has cut funding to critical public safety areas like state police, county sheriffs, community corrections, and victim services.

VICTIM SERVICES IN OREGON ARE SEVERELY UNDERFUNDED:

- The 2006 Oregon Equity Study found that \$32 million a biennium is needed to meet domestic and sexual violence victims' basic and emergency needs in the community. The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund is \$4.3 million a biennium, a mere 13% the amount needed to meet basic emergency needs.
- Over 200 Oregonians have lost their lives to domestic violence in the last decade; over 150 of whom were killed in the last four years. In 2011, over 20,000 requests for emergency shelter from violence couldn't be met.
- The funding shortage has forced programs across the state to cut back services, reduce staff, or close altogether. For example, Yolanda House in Portland recently had to close; Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance in Josephine County had to reduce services to two days a week; Womenspace in Eugene had to end walk-in services, which served over 1,000 victims last year. Oregon's network of safety for victims is on the brink of collapse.

OREGON CAN REDUCE FUTURE CRIME BY INVESTING IN VICTIM SERVICES:

- Oregon needs to be more cost effective and strategic in its use of incarceration, while investing in the programs proven to reduce future crime and recidivism at a fraction of the cost.
- Studies show that access to domestic violence services leads to a 60 to 70 percent reduction in incidence and severity of re-assault.
- The Governor's Commission on Public Safety prioritized investment in victim services in order to ensure that crime victims have access to emergency shelter and support in their communities and can achieve their constitutional rights in the justice system, including:
 - Increased funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund,
 - Increased funding for the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program (CAMI), and
 - Increased funding for system-based victim services programs to ensure that victims who are going through the criminal and juvenile justice systems can access their rights under law at every stage of system.

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