



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

2017 Primary Legislative Priorities

These priorities will be the primary focus of the Alliance, based on priority setting input from survivors, advocates, and service providers from across the state.

1. Funding for Services for Survivors:

- a. **\$2 million increase in the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund in the DOJ Budget:** *ODSVS is the primary source of funding for Oregon's network of confidential shelter, safety planning, and support services for survivors across the state. Despite recent investments, funding levels are still less than 50% of what is minimally required to ensure adequate access to emergency services in all communities.*
- b. **\$10 million increase in the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) in the OHCS Budget:** *EHA and SHAP provide immediate short term rent assistance, homelessness-prevention support, and emergency shelter services across the state. Domestic and sexual violence are primary causes of homelessness, and also the result of homelessness. Increased capacity in these services will help countless survivors get or stay safe.*
- c. **Punitive Damages from Tobacco Settlement in Crime Victim Services Division of DOJ:** *State law provides that a percentage of punitive damages awards be used to fund services to crime victims. This is one of the primary sources of funding for critically important services such as the Address Confidentiality Program, medical forensic exams after a sexual assault, crime victims' compensation, and more. It is critical that this award be protected in the CVSD Budget so as to ensure stability for these programs in the coming years.*

2. Tenant Protections: HB 2004

Housing stability and security were the highest needs identified by survivors and advocates across the state. Our state's housing crisis is impacting the most vulnerable populations disproportionately. Victims of violence who are displaced by extreme rent increases or no-cause evictions are made more vulnerable to an abuser's power and control. Victims who have managed to escape abuse are forced to return to abusive homes if their only alternative is homelessness. No-cause evictions are often used as a tool to discriminate against victims. This is the highest priority policy issue for the Alliance. The bill contains two parts:

- a. **Just Cause Eviction:** *Oregon's current law allows landlords to evict month-to-month tenants with no cause, with as little as 30 days' notice. No-cause evictions displace residents, and are prone to abuse as a screen for retaliation or discrimination. The Alliance supports the #JustCause eviction standard, which would prohibit eviction unless the tenant violates the lease or the landlord has a specific business purpose.*
- b. **Rent Stabilization:** *Oregon's current law prohibits local governments from taking any action to control or stabilize rents. In this market, extreme rent increases are displacing families across the state, and a significant number of Oregonians are cost-burdened by rent. This proposal would allow local markets to respond to the crisis to provide stabilization for communities.*

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- 3. K-12 and Campus Sexual Assault - Connecting Sexual Violence Prevention and Response: SB 318** In prior sessions, the Oregon Legislature successfully passed legislation in support of sexual violence prevention and response, including: Healthy Sexuality Education (OAR Rule 581-022-1440), Healthy Teen Relationship Act (HB 4077), Coordinated Student Success Act of 2016 (HB4031), Erin's Law (SB 856), Campus Sexual Assault (SB 759), and Advocate Privilege (HB 3476). While we have made many positive strides to improve our prevention and response efforts, our schools across Oregon lack the infrastructure, technical assistance, and support to fully implement effective prevention and trauma-informed responses to victims of sexual assault.

The Alliance endorses and prioritizes the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force priority of establishing the following positions at Oregon Department of Education:

- a. .5 FTE **Violence Prevention Specialist** at ODE for youth in K-12
- b. 1FTE **Title IX Specialist** at ODE for K-12 and Oregon's 17 Community Colleges

Establishing these two critical positions would effectively support students enrolled in Oregon's K-12 and 2-year community colleges.