

Over the last year I have been working hard here in the city of Portland; working with community partners and Oregon state legislators on establishing ways to help the residents and constituents of Oregon and to keep them safe! I have put a lot of thought into the steps that we can take here in the state of Oregon.

As of right now there is a population of constituents and residents that are unable to file for protection orders because they do not meet the criteria of domestic or committed partnership. This population includes, the homeless who are living on the streets being subjected to abuse, people who work in the adult entertainment industry that do not meet the domestic or committed partnership guidelines, the LGBTQ community, and children who aren't able to legally give constant and are vulnerable to abuse. If we can implement Consensual Partnership we will be able to serve more residents and constituents here in the state of Oregon.

### **Legislative Updates**

1.) HB3117- passed on 5/22/2019

Modifies Family Abuse Prevention Act to authorize court to continue restraining order if abuse occurred within specified period, petitioner reasonably fears for petitioner's physical safety and respondent represents a credible threat to physical safety of petitioner or petitioner's child. This legislation is for Survivors of sexual violence, domestic abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and people with disabilities who are being abused and mistreated.

<https://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2019/HB3117/>

### **Proposals for the 2021 session**

2) Peace of mind bill.

This legislation is for Survivors who have had their protection order contested. Currently: When a petitioner files for, and is granted a protection order, the respondent has the right to contest the order within 30 days. However, this process can take months and many hearings, during which time the petitioner is forced to see the respondent repeatedly despite having the order intended to keep the respondent away from the petitioner. Regardless of how long the deliberation takes, as it stands now, the petitioner will have to file to renew their order within one year of the initial filing date.

Even if, after 10 months of deliberation, the court rules in favor of the petitioner, or if the respondent decides to drop the contest 9 months into the process, the petitioner would only have 2-3 months in which they do not have to face their attacker.

This bill would require that a new expiration date be set (suggested 1 year) in the event of a drawn out contested order.

If no contest is filed, the expiration is one year from the original filing date. No changes are prescribed in this case. If the order is contested, and takes more than 30 days to resolve, the initial expiration date is unacceptable, and must be extended to allow the petitioner to have their year of peace of mind knowing that their attacker must stay away from them.

### 3.) Know your rights cards

Cards to be given when protective orders (FAPA, SAPO, EDAPA) are obtained and explain that the petitioner cannot violate their own protective order with protocol for when a violation occurs

### 4.) Consensual Partnership

As of right now there is a population of constituents and residents that are unable to file for protection orders because they do not meet the criteria of domestic or committed partnership.

### 5.) CVPO-- Consensual Violation Protection Order

Establish another form of protection for people and constituents who don't meet the domestic and committed partnership criteria and are unable to file for FAPA (Family Abuse Protection Act) or SAPO (Sexual Assault Protection Order)

My hope is that we will be able to establish another form of protection for people and constituents who don't meet the domestic and committed partnership criteria and are unable to file for FAPA (Family Abuse Protection Act) or SAPO (Sexual Assault Protection Order) what I have in mind would be something along the lines of CVPO (Consensual Violation Protection Order). This will ensure that all Survivors of abuse and violence will be able to get the help and protection that they need. This will be the starting point I would like to see Consensual Partnership established alongside Domestic and Committed Partnership. These changes will further serve our communities here in the state of Oregon.

If you agree with these changes, and would like to show your support--email [EasePNW@gmail.com](mailto:EasePNW@gmail.com) to find out how to get involved, written testimony is welcomed and encouraged. By providing additional written testimony in support of these changes the legislators in Salem who are helping me introduce these proposals for the 2021 session will have the opportunity to hear from more people in our community. One voice can make a dent but the voices of many will have a stronger impact at invoking positive change for our community.