



TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Jackie Yerby, Executive Director, Bradley Angle
DATE: April 10, 2017
RE: Support for HB 3078, The Safety and Savings Act

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jackie Yerby and I am the Executive Director of Bradley Angle based in Portland. Since 1975, Bradley Angle has been working with survivors of domestic violence to help them achieve long-term safety and stability. We run one of the oldest emergency shelters in the country and also offer supportive services including support groups, housing assistance, an economic empowerment program, and youth and family support services. Bradley Angle serves people of all gender identities. The reality is that the majority of people we work with identify as women. Many of them are women with children.

Within the last decade, the domestic violence system has recognized that children are also survivors of domestic violence and that they require special attention to help them heal from trauma. In our Youth and Family Support Services program, we work with parents and children to help them strengthen the parent-child bond. This work is an important part of prevention. It helps children to understand what a healthy relationship looks like.

Oregon is on the brink of opening another women's prison. The vast majority of these women have been convicted of addiction-driven crimes. They have histories of trauma, domestic violence or mental health issues that need to be addressed through treatment, not incarceration.

Additionally, 75% of women in prison are mothers, most of whom have minor children at home; 70,000 children in Oregon have an incarcerated parent; 40% of foster kids have a parent in prison, which places children at potential increased risks factors as they grow into adults. African American kids are seven times more likely to have a parent in prison.

The Safety and Savings Act contains a few elements, and we believe that all of them are essential.

1. It prioritizes treatment services over longer sentences for addiction-driven crime, holding people accountable but ensuring cost savings to better achieve our shared public safety goals.
2. It preserves and fixes the family sentencing alternative and expands short term transition leave to reduce recidivism and strengthen families.
3. It continues funding Justice Reinvestment and victims' services so that people who've been harmed by crime and those who've been convicted of crime can receive services they need to heal and rebuild their lives.
4. It also continues funding the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund which is the only source of general fund dollars that supports community-based resources and

programs. Funding needs to be preserved, especially since current levels are less than 50% of what is minimally required to ensure adequate access to emergency services.

The Safety and Savings Act would mean cost-savings, community-based services, addiction treatment, and increased family stability, all of which make our communities safer and stronger.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I ask your support for The Safety and Savings Act (HB 3078), and I urge the Committee to move this bill forward.