

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming October, 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Domestic violence is a complex, far-reaching problem that impacts everyone in our community regardless of race, gender, orientation, education, socioeconomic status, religion, or ability.
- B. Although domestic violence can affect anyone, marginalized groups experience higher rates of domestic violence due to systemic barriers, inequities, and oppression in our service systems.
- C. One in five homicides in Oregon are related to intimate partner violence, causing at least 29 Oregonians to lose their lives in 2017. Over half of the women in Oregon have experienced some form of sexual or domestic violence.
- D. One in fifteen children are exposed to domestic violence every year and between 30 and 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home. Exposure to domestic violence harms children and places them at risk of experiencing further violence.
- E. Domestic violence is a significant contributing factor to unemployment and poverty. Oregon is one of the least affordable states for childcare and our gender wealth gap is among the largest in the nation. It is therefore not surprising that Oregon also has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the country.
- F. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women in Oregon. On September 13th, 2018, the National Census of Domestic Violence Services found that on that one day alone, 169 survivors of domestic violence in Oregon requested housing or shelter and were denied due to a lack of availability.
- G. Domestic violence is not inevitable. The impact and prevalence of domestic violence is affected by a variety of public policies and programs. Survivors experience greater danger if they do not have access to a living wage, paid family leave, affordable housing, and affordable childcare.
- H. Promoting civic engagement is an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. The month of October 2018 is proclaimed to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.
2. All county residents are encouraged to reflect upon this year's theme, "Awareness + Action = Social Change," and consider the impact that laws, policies, and elected officials have on the safety, health, economic security, and well-being of survivors. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Multnomah County encourages individuals to consider how voting and civic engagement inform policies that impact survivors' lives.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Peggy Samolinski, Director, DCHS Youth and Family Services