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For Immediate Release  
March 25, 2015

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## Oregon House Votes to Help Victims of Stalking

*HB 2628 would enable courts to eliminate filing fees for victims of stalking*

SALEM – Today, the Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously to ensure that victims of stalking are able to obtain a protective restraining order, a crucial tool for Oregonians in danger of violence.

House Bill 2628 would enable courts to eliminate filing fees for people who seek a stalking-related restraining order. The bill was introduced in response to a request from members of the domestic violence response community.

“House Bill 2628 will ensure that nobody is denied a stalking protective order because they can’t afford the filing fee,” said Rep. Ann Lininger (D- Lake Oswego). “It’s time we ensure that victims and their families are protected to the fullest extent of the law.”

Currently, individuals who seek stalking-related restraining orders are sometimes required to pay a filing fee. Often, these victims are unable to afford this filing fee, setting up an unintended roadblock for Oregonians seeking safety for themselves and their families. Victim safety advocates believe this practice may have prevented some stalking victims from receiving the protection they need in the past.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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