

March 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB150
TESTIMONY BY SENATOR OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU

The Senate on Judiciary Committee:

Chair: Senator Rick Wilborn

Vice-Chair: Senator Eric Rucker

Ranking Minority Member: Senator Vic Miller

Senator Molly Baumgardner, Senator Elaine Bowers, Senator David Haley, Senator Randall Hardy, Senator Julia Lynn, Senator Mike Peterson, Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook, Senator Dennis Pyle

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 150.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence often face housing discrimination because of the violence committed against them. Such discrimination can include being denied admission to, or being evicted from, housing due to acts of violence committed against survivors. This discrimination jeopardizes housing security for survivors and their families who are leaving abusive situations.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence face a number of serious housing problems related to the acts of violence committed against them. Legal services providers have reported hundreds of cases where tenants were evicted because of acts of domestic and sexual violence committed against them. Focusing on defending survivors' rights to maintain rental housing is particularly crucial because women living in rental housing experience domestic violence at three times the rate of women who own their homes. Further, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among survivors and their families.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support SB-150.

Sincerely,

Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau