



April 22, 2025

Oklahoma State Senate  
Judiciary Committee Members  
2300 Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK

**RE: Support for House Bill 1273**

Dear Senator,

I hope this finds you well.

**I am reaching out to express my strong support for House Bill 1273.** I am doing so not only as a representative of Right On Crime, but as a lifelong conservative Oklahoman who values law and order while understanding the need for a thoughtful approach to domestic violence in our state.

House Bill 1273 authorizes a pilot program through the Attorney General's office to give certified Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) providers a new tool to break the cycle of violence by allowing more responsive, tailored, and effective interventions.

Unfortunately, entities who financially benefit from keeping the status quo are attempting to mislead the legislature regarding the merits of this bill. **Before I clear up those inaccuracies let me be clear, many incredible BIP and survivor-serving agencies exist in our state.** Providers who are passionate about serving victims and solving the domestic abuse problem in our state. The inaccuracies being spread come from a few BIP providers and do not represent the industry.

The facts are clear:

1. **Feedback from providers was pursued.** The groups supporting this legislation engaged in a thoughtful discussion with a large group of Batterers' Intervention Program providers, survivor-serving agencies, and representatives from the District Attorney's Council. Their feedback was instrumental and incorporated into the proposed Senate committee substitute. This collaborative approach highlights our concern for expert input and survivor-focused considerations.
2. **The procedure for selecting participants is clear, and judicial discretion still exists.** Misunderstanding surrounding participant selection has surfaced, with claims that the bill does not clearly outline who will participate in the pilot programs. However, the language explicitly states that participants will be chosen based on assessments conducted by certified BIP providers. It is essential to note that the number of participants will be limited due to facility capacity and the fact that not all counties will have access to a pilot program due to the limit set in the bill. This ensures focused and manageable implementation.
3. **This legislation includes robust guidelines for reporting data and certifying the effectiveness of each program.** The language in House Bill 1273 ensures responsible implementation with clear limits, timelines, evaluation mechanisms, and Attorney General oversight. Rest assured that the pilot programs will receive stringent oversight, surpassing the current standards.

4. **Existing programs will not be affected.** House Bill 1273 does not aim to displace existing programs. The bill limits the pilot to five programs, housed at existing organizations with the necessary certifications. With the urgent need across our state these five providers cannot meet the demand alone.
5. **Safeguarding survivors and serving victims is paramount.** House Bill 1273 will strengthen survivor safety by aligning offender treatment with best practices and allowing for individualized intervention plans.

Our intent is not to eliminate existing programs or threaten their existence. We want to ensure that programs focus on the underlying issues that contribute to abusive actions. We can do that by incorporating existing science-based programs that incorporate mental health resources, substance abuse treatment, and trauma-informed care, promoting a more comprehensive path to rehabilitation. These are the type of programs we want to see in Oklahoma.

**I urge you to support House Bill 1273.** This bill not only maintains the integrity of existing programs but introduces a framework that promises to improve the current landscape of domestic violence intervention and outcomes for offenders by allowing more responsive, tailored, and effective interventions.

**Together, we can make a decisive impact in the lives of survivors and their families.**

Regards,



Marilyn Davidson  
Right On Crime, Oklahoma Director