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June 3, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Sub-Committee on Public Safety

Re: HB 3067

Dear Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Stark, and Members of the Sub-Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3067, which would establish a CourtCare pilot program in Marion and Polk counties.

Within the Victim Assistance Division of the Marion County District Attorney's Office, our advocates walk alongside victims as they navigate the criminal justice system and help them address barriers to participating in that process. Additionally, we ensure that victims know and understand their rights within the process and we help them assert those rights so their voices are heard. Truly having access to the court process, being present in court when they want to be, and being heard when given the opportunity, are critical to a victim feeling included in their own case. For many victims, lack of safe and reliable child care is an obstacle to their participation and, as a result, they often feel like they are on the sidelines in their own case because they're not able to fully participate.

HB 3067 is a positive step toward eliminating an obstacle many victims of crime face in accessing and meaningfully participating in the court process. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Larson
Director, Victim Assistance Division
Marion County District Attorney's Office