



April 5, 2021

Oregon Legislature
Joint Ways & Means Committee
Public Safety Subcommittee

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Re: 2021-23 Department of Justice Budget
Crime Victim and Survivor Service Division (CVSSD)
Policy Option Package #311

Dear Co-Chairs Gorcek and Sollman and Members:

I am writing as a member of the Executive Committee of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center in support of the CVSSD POP #311.

The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center (www.ocvlc.org) is an Oregon nonprofit organization that provides free legal representation to crime victims throughout Oregon. The staff of seven, including five attorneys, a victims advocate and fiscal manager, assist many of the most vulnerable victims in the state as their cases move through the criminal justice system. OCVLC helps victims have an effective voice in that complex and often confusing system.

As a nonprofit, OCVLC depends on governmental and private grants to provide these critical services. CVSSD is the administrator of some of these grants. The CVSSD staff ensures that OCVLC and other victim service providers receive the funding needed to help victims statewide and that best practices are followed.

One of the greatest areas of need is funding to cover the costs related to violent crime. CVSSD's Crime Victims' Compensation program allows victims to recover the costs of crime-related medical expenses, counseling, loss of earnings, rehabilitation and funeral expenses. This financial assistance reduces some of the stress and anxiety comes with the trauma of crime victimization and is a critical resource for victim support.

CVSSD also provides training for victim service providers including through the State Victim Assistance Academy which each year trains hundreds of victim advocates around the state. SVAA in partnership with OCVLC, prepares new advocates to work with crime victims in a trauma-informed manner on

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topics like ethics, privacy, victims' assistance, advocacy, financial assistance and support.

In summary, CVSSD has a significant impact on improving outcomes for crime victims in Oregon through training of advocates and law enforcement, funding service providers, administering the compensation program and direct advocacy for victims. OCVLC relies on the funding and support of CVSSD to provide essential services to crime victims in Oregon. OCVLC fully supports the CVSSD budget.

Thank you for considering the position of OCVLC and for your support of the CVSSD budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles S. Tauman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles S. Tauman
Executive Committee Member
Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

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