



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: March 21, 2023

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Andersen, and
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2391 – District Attorney Victim Assistance Program funding

Crime victim advocates in District Attorney offices provide a core function of the DAs office, supporting a crime victim through the criminal justice system. They are key partners with community-based partners who support these victims and survivors beyond the engagement with the courts. As such, significant investment is needed to support both of these vital efforts.

Today, many DA victim advocate positions rely on funding from federal Victims of Crimes Act grants, which have declined annually since 2018. States are now bracing for additional cuts despite an increased need for services resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for BIPOC and other marginalized communities.

Without consistent funding, the State must backfill through emergency measures, force counties to absorb the costs or risk losing these programs entirely. Victim advocates in DA offices need dedicated State funding to ensure these lifesaving services continue and are as accessible, seamless and efficient as possible.

HB 2391 provides funding for one crime victim advocate in DA offices with a single prosecutor and an advocate for every four deputy DAs in offices with more than one prosecutor. It is crucial to note that this funding does not replace allocations for other, community-based advocacy services, that provide additional support for victims and survivors of crimes. Investments are needed in both.

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