

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Cassie Cruze. I reside in Linn County. As the Resource & Funding Manager for the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, I urge you to support the Fair Shot for All the People's Budget—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and an economic justice framework. Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive.

Full funding for HB 3018 (Survivor Housing Funds) and HB 2933 (Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund) in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division to ensure continued access to vital life-saving community-based, culturally-specific, and Tribal Nation shelter and housing services for survivors of domestic or sexual violence and their children.

- Funding for HB 2933 ensures that basic emergency shelter and safety planning advocacy services for survivors are not cut. These services save lives in crisis.
- Funding for HB 3018 ensures that housing advocacy and placement assistance for survivors are not cut. These services help survivors and their children move into or stay stable in safe housing as they transition out of emergency.

These issues are important to me because, as a survivor of child abuse and neglect, secondary trauma, and intimate partner violence. I fully understand the vital importance of living in a less stressful environment that supports stability in the workplace leading to self-sufficiency and granting access to healthcare and mental health resources after trauma, this allowed my children and I to go from surviving to thriving. Just leaving harm and abuse does not guarantee the possibility of building a life up again. Not having resources upon leaving make it likely a survivor will return to their abuser because they need a place to live or as a means of survival.

At CARDV, we are able to support survivors as they organize themselves and their children to leave a highly dangerous situation first by providing them with a safe space to strategically plan the means to carry out their plan and anything needed to move and assist them in rebuilding their life. This effort can only be done by organizations like CARDV having access to meaningful financial support and resources to help beyond just leaving.

The housing stability programs and shelter that CARDV offers survivors are meaningful and monetary. Shelter support keeps the safety continuum for all survivors who work with us. The continuum of safety creates safer communities free from violence as they let CARDV support survivors in crisis with: the hotline and emergency shelter, the ability to work on prevention initiatives by educating youth and the community about modeling and maintaining healthy relationships and support in sustaining safety with stable housing after survivors and their families have left harm and abuse.

In closing, we ask you to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in access to safety and services to create widespread economic opportunities for Oregonians. We need to address domestic & sexual violence impacting Oregon families and the communities they live in by making investments now. I urge you to fully fund HB 2933 and HB 3018 and the other policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,

Cassie Cruze
Resource & Funding Manager
Center Against Rape & Domestic Violence
Serving Linn & Benton Counties