

Submitter: Lisa Jones
On Behalf Of: Family Peace Center of Washington County
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure: HB5030

Hello-

My name is Lisa Jones. I am a survivor of domestic violence and I serve on the VOICES survivor committee of the Family Justice Center of Washington County. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the Family Peace Centers request of \$6 million in lottery bonds for HB5030.

In the aftermath of the abuse and trauma that I experienced; I have come to realize that I have an important voice. I have an experience that others who might find themselves in similar situations could benefit from. Getting to this realization, however, took work. It took facing many years of torment and grief, reprogramming my brain to feel safe, and learning how to recognize goodness again. To do this, I utilized the many services offered from some of the various 18 agencies who are housed at the Family Justice Center of Washington County.

I was provided free legal consulting, an individual therapist to meet with on a weekly basis, participated in multiple domestic violence support groups and was provided a confidential advocate who was just a phone call away, available to meet with me as needed, and who was right by my side while I attended family court. I began to understand the cycle of abuse and learn about healthy relationships. I began to rediscover myself again.

In June of 2022, I was asked to voluntarily serve on the VOICES Advisory Board for the Family Justice Center, of which I take the minutes of our monthly meetings. VOICES members are an integral part of the development and planning of the Family Justice Center and will continue so as we grow into the Family Peace Center. As survivors, we use our voices to help others through advocacy, education, and empowerment. We offer a unique perspective in regards to the Family Peace Centers programming and help identify gaps in services.

The Family Peace Center's mission is to work collaboratively with the community to provide a single location for prevention, intervention, healing and hope for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Washington County. We envision that by joining together, we will end family trauma in our community.

This project is needed now more than ever! We see the needs in our community climb, rates of violence are increasing, and the costs of trauma skyrocket around the

state, a center to holistically address these challenges is exactly where we should put our investments.

By providing the \$6 million lottery bond for The Family Peace Center, we will be able to offer even more services than the Family Justice Center already does. We have an estimated 24 agencies ready to provide services to survivors and their families. That's 6 more agencies than are already housed at the Family Justice Center!

I never realized my resilience until I could see it through the eyes of others as I built community for myself and my children after our life-changing experiences of domestic violence. A community which began the moment I stepped foot inside the Family Justice Center of Washington County.

My children and I will never be the same as we were before. We have turned into stronger individuals and a more bonded family unit. I see our healing as a lifelong journey, one that I will navigate with ongoing treatment, self-care, community-building, and determination for social justice, all of which will be supported through the agencies housed at the Family Peace Center of Washington County.

I urge you to support victims of abuse by providing \$6 million in lottery bonds for the Family Peace Center of Washington County.

Thank you kindly,

Lisa Jones