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**To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means**  
**From: Sybil Hebb, Oregon Law Center**  
**Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Re: Survivor Services Funding in Department of Justice CVSSD Budget**

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith, and members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of full funding of Attorney General Rayfield's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, and specifically in support of continued funding for the specialized programs that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children in the Department of Justice Budget's POP 327 and in HB 3196.

Gender-based violence greatly contributes to the vulnerability of OLC's low-income clients, and further traps them in poverty and crisis. The safety and support services offered by community based domestic and sexual violence shelter and safety programs quite literally save lives. Without continued funding for through POP 327 and HB 3196, there will be significant cuts to services in every county in the state, putting survivors and their children at greater risk:

**Department of Justice Budget POP 327:**

\$22 million in grant funding in the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) of the Department of Justice for Tribal, culturally specific, and community-based programs to continue providing confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking across the state.

These investments are necessary to continue current levels of survivor services that were finally brought up to baseline minimal access levels in 2019 thru one-time investments. In 2024, the Legislature recognized the importance of this increased capacity and unanimously passed HB 4140, which stated that these funds are to be considered current service level moving forward. If these investments are not continued, survivor services in communities across the state will suffer significant cuts. POP #327 cements the continuation of these funds:

- **\$10 Million for ODSVS:** These funds provide support for the network of confidential, trauma-informed, community-based and culturally-specific programs providing shelter, safety planning, hotline, and advocacy services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence (DSV) and their children across the state.
- **\$6 Million for the Survivor Housing Fund:** Survivor Housing Funds allow DVSA service providers to empower survivors in the next step of accessing safety from violence. These funds increase the chances at long-term stability and safety for survivors and their children. As Oregon's housing affordability crisis continues to reach new peaks, the Survivor Housing Funds are necessary to make it possible for victims to escape the cycle of abuse, and to establish stability for themselves and their children.



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- **\$6 Million for Children’s Advocacy Centers:** CACs are the state’s mandated and unique resource for the assessment, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and the associated trauma, in order to promote health and hope in children, youth, families, and communities.

**HB 3196: One-Time Funding to Prevent Cuts to Interdisciplinary Victim Services Programs (\$18.5 Million)**

The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the primary source of federal grants for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, attempted homicide, and other crimes. Oregon was notified of the 42% in federal funding cuts following the close of the 2024 short Session. We need a one-time investment to continue important partnerships between service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others serving victims of crime in every county in the state.

Continuation of these funds will ensure that programs will be available for survivors and their children seeking safety in their time of need. Oregon has worked hard in a bi-partisan fashion to stabilize access to these services. We urge the committee to continue this commitment to victim safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.