

Re: Support for HB 3196 – Preventing Cuts to Critical Victim Services in Oregon

Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

We submitting this testimony on behalf of the collaborative of partners in the Family Justice Center of Washington County to urge your support for House Bill 3196, which proposes a critical one-time investment of \$18.5 million to backfill federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding cuts that threaten to destabilize essential crime victim services across Oregon.

The Family Justice Center, along with our network of partner agencies—including CARES Northwest, the Domestic Violence Resource Center, Safety Compass, and the Sexual Assault Resource Center—supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and other forms of interpersonal violence. This network is part of a larger ecosystem of interdisciplinary services that not only provide healing and safety for survivors, but also collaborate with law enforcement, prosecutors, and health providers to improve community safety.

Oregon is facing a 42% reduction in VOCA funding, a cut that would devastate victim service programs across the state. In Washington County alone, vital services will be impacted, including those provided by CARES Northwest, the DA's Victim Assistance Program, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and culturally specific organizations like Muslimahs United. Without immediate state intervention, these cuts will result in increased wait times, reduced staffing, limited services, and survivors being turned away at a time when they need us most.

Oregon has some of the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the country. Over one million women and girls in Oregon have experienced domestic or sexual violence—nearly half of all women in the state. This is double the national average. Factors such as housing insecurity, rural isolation, substance abuse, and systemic legal gaps create an environment where violence can escalate, and survivors struggle to access help. Now more than ever, we must invest in programs that save lives.

Victims and survivors depend on these services for shelter, advocacy, counseling, safety planning, and pathways to justice. These are not luxuries. They are baseline needs, and Oregon must meet them.

We urge you to support HB 3196 to ensure Oregon remains a place where survivors are protected and supported—no matter what happens at the federal level.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment.

Sincerely,

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