

Submitter: Amanda Rain
On Behalf Of: Survivor Services POP 327 and HB 3196
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

April 16, 2025

Re: Policy Option Package 327 and HB 3196

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I urge you to pass two pieces of legislation. The first is the Department of Justice Budget POP# 327 that will provide ongoing funding to stabilize critical survivor services programs (\$22M). This will maintain the same funding levels as in past years to ensure survivors of interpersonal violence can access the support they need and deserve, including crisis intervention, emergency shelter, safety planning, and advocacy.

The second is HB 3196, which will backfill VOCA funding (\$18.5M). Federal legislators are actively working on a sustainable fix for VOCA (H.R. 909), which has bipartisan support and, at last count, 148 co-sponsors. This one-time investment will ensure that when crime victims turn to agencies and systems providers for support, help will be there.

Interpersonal violence thrives in silence and isolation. The resources that these funds provide create a lifeline for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. As a survivor of intergenerational family violence, I have seen what it means to not have access to support. I have seen people stay because they didn't think they had any other options. I know intimately the imprint witnessing violence leaves on a child, and the lifelong journey of healing that follows. I have seen what it looks like when people don't have support through that journey.

I know there are societal costs to the violence (health care, law enforcement, employment), addiction (coping), and all the other seen and unseen implications of enduring violence brings. Survivors deserve better, and these resources are critical. I understand we are in an environment of uncertainty, but resources for family violence interventions must be preserved. As the pressures in society increase, so will violence in the home. Your support and commitment to survivors is needed at this time. We will pay for it one way or another.

I urge you to vote in favor of POP# 327 and HB 3196. These funds are crucial for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Thank you for your support and the

opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rain
Resident of Portland