

Submitter: Kelly Renshaw
On Behalf Of: Survivor Services POP 327 and HB 3196
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
4/16/2025
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.

The services that are funded are crucial to our many community members. I have seen first-hand how this funding can impact youth, their families and our community as a whole. I have family who have experienced domestic violence and without this funding and without support from the community, they would have been deeply, greatly impacted.

In my previous work as a Youth Advocate I was able to participate in our CAMP Hope program. This program gives children who have experienced violence the space to be a child, to learn, and to grow and find community is something that is so incredibly crucial. Growing up, this is something I could have used and being able to be a safe person for youth who have known fear due to family violence is something I hold close and take great pride in. I dream and hope that our community can be filled of safe adults, who care about our community members. What I have learned in the last couple of years is that we as a community have so much more pulling us together then pushing us a part. There is a lot of polarization right now but I know that at the end of the day we all care about keeping our community safe. I know that we all know someone who has been impacted by violence and this funding helps us to come together to make our community stronger. A strong community impacts our economy, our future, our education system, our healthcare system and everything in between.

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,

Kelly Renshaw
Resident of Beaverton (97005)