

Submitter: Alex Gonzales
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.

In my work in the victim services field, I have seen the difference these resources make in the lives and wellbeing of survivors. This funding provides lifesaving services to prevent further harm, and promote the healing and empowerment of survivors and their families.

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,

Alex Gonzales
Resident of Tigard