

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

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.

Insert your experience/perspective/expertise about why services are essential—keep it to one paragraph.

I grew up in a broken home with parents who could not be in the same room as one another. My mother had a restraining order on my father and although their relationship never escalated to abuse, seeing this from a young age has given me an education on the importance of the services rendered. The benefits of these services shine not only on the adults and people directly involved, but also on their families and those close to them. The preservation of these services are key to the safety and success of families that are in vulnerable positions.

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,

Janak Ward

Resident of Beaverton