

Submitter: Mitchell LeBrun
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.

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.

The need to protect all who might not have the means or the ability is a critical part of what it means to be a resident of Oregon. Where other discount the necessity of protecting those in need, we have an opportunity to not abandon that moral, and stand with victims. As a resident I'd be deeply saddened if we do. I hope that this testimony expresses how necessary keeping these services is.

Sincerely,

Mitchell LeBrun

Resident of Beaverton