

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

April 17, 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 as a youth-focused counselor providing mental health services to children and families, I see the difference services make in the lives of survivors. The resiliency, determination, and enduring hope in the face of incredible hardship that I see every day in the people I support is honestly awe-inspiring. I also know that we aren't meant to be alone – we need community. When someone is rebuilding their life after experiencing violence, they need people walking alongside them in that process. This is critical for creating safety in our communities and preventing violence - key services that this funding supports.

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,

Lindsey Regier
Resident of Clackamas County