

April 17, 2025

Re: Policy Option Package 327 and HB 3196

For the full committee of Ways and Means:

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 was 11 when I sat in a dark room covering the ears of my 6- and 7-year-old siblings while the sound of yelling and broken items occurred in the other room. My stepdad came home intoxicated again and broke the door down after my mom tried to lock him out. This was my life for years and without the vital support of domestic violence agencies, my mother would've likely been murdered due to several indicators of lethality. My mother would've never left her abuser and accessed supportive services.

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,

Kati Rodriguez

Resident of Portland, from Hermiston