

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.

Funding that allows support for DV and SA survivors is so vital to the communities that I am part of. The reality is that domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be prevalent and there is endless work that needs to be done not just for violence prevention but to support survivors who are attempting to leave violent situation or have experienced sexual assault. This isn't just about safety for survivors but about addressing the health and social inequalities that many survivors face. When consistently exposed to trauma it is not easy to move forward on your own. Community and access to services is vital for a survivors safety.

I personally know of many folks within my community that would have returned to their abuser had they not received trauma informed care and competent support from organizations who rely on this funding. Statistics show that a history of violence is present in 70-80% of DV homicides. Approving the funds are vital for organizations providing intervention, shelter, advocacy, safety planning and other forms of assistance to victims of DV and SA. I fear what would happen if these funds were cut, where would survivors get the assistance, they need to not just move forward after experiencing DV and/or SA? Who is going to help them plan for their future and walk alongside them in their healing journey?

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,

Gisela A. Verdeja Bogle
Resident and Voter of Beaverton, Oregon