

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

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

As a board member of Clackamas Women's Services and resident of Clackamas County, I'm writing today to urge your support for two vital pieces of legislation that will directly impact the safety, recovery, and long-term well-being of Oregon families affected by intimate partner violence (IPV).

IPV is not just a private issue—it creates long-lasting ripple effects throughout our communities. Children exposed to violence at home often carry the emotional and psychological impacts into the classroom, affecting their ability to learn, connect with peers, and feel safe. Educators in our county and across the state are grappling with the increased needs of students affected by trauma. These challenges don't stay contained—they strain classrooms, schools, and entire districts.

The economic and social toll on communities is just as profound. Survivors often face interrupted employment, long-term health needs, and social isolation, which in turn place pressure on our healthcare, public safety, and social service systems. But here's the good news: when survivors are supported through trauma-informed services, advocacy, and stable community resources, they rebuild their lives, return to the workforce, raise thriving children, and strengthen the very communities they once feared would break them.

That's why I'm urging you to pass two critical pieces of legislation this session: The Department of Justice Budget POP #327, which will provide \$22 million in ongoing funding to stabilize essential survivor service programs. This investment simply maintains the same funding levels from past years—supporting services like emergency shelter, crisis intervention, safety planning, and legal and emotional advocacy that survivors need and deserve.

House Bill 3196, which allocates \$18.5 million to backfill the significant shortfall in federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding. This one-time investment is a crucial bridge as federal legislators work on a long-term solution through H.R. 909, which already has strong bipartisan support and 148 co-sponsors. Without this funding, many survivors across Oregon may find the door to help closed when they need it most.

The survivors we serve are not just recipients of aid—they are community members who, with the right support, go on to lead, parent, work, volunteer, and contribute in deeply meaningful ways. Your vote can make that possible.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to building safer, healthier

communities in Oregon.

With appreciation,

Karen Hansis

Board Member, Clackamas Women's Services

Resident, Clackamas County