

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

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.

Saving Grace is the only provider of services to survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence in Deschutes County. This is an invaluable resource to our community and one without which folks would suffer. As a survivor of domestic violence myself, I know that organizations like this are key to offering safety, hope, and healing. Saving Grace, and other organizations throughout the state rely on federal and state funding to provide critical services. With recent uncertainty around federal funding, I strongly 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,
Amber
Resident of Bend, Oregon