



**PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

**Testimony in Support of HB 4133  
By Amy Davidson, Crime Survivor Program Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Williams and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Davidson, and I'm the Crime Survivor Program Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice. Partnership for Safety and Justice is a statewide, non-profit organization that advocates for public safety and criminal justice policies. For over 20 years, our work has advanced state and local solutions that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both.

I'm requesting your support for HB 4133 which would assure continued resources to the Department of Human Services for the funding of collocated advocate positions in child welfare offices. As a former domestic and sexual violence advocate in Oregon for almost 15 years, I can attest firsthand to the value of this much needed program.

Many of the collocated advocate positions originally created by these funds were housed in culturally specific programs of domestic and sexual violence agencies. For survivors who have historically and systematically been denied access to life-saving resources and who also experience higher rates of child removal from the home, the improved access to services for Black and brown survivors through the collocated advocate program was notable.

However, when funds were redistributed, it negatively impacted collocated advocate positions in higher populous areas that typically serve more survivors of color, and many advocates were forced to leave the position.

At its core, the collocated advocate program is a highly effective bridge between communities that would not typically seek services and those who can offer vital help in keeping families and communities safe. Please consider the potential for lasting, positive impact through the passage of this bill.

We urge your support for HB 4133 and for lasting, positive impact through the passage of this bill.