

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SUPPORT HB 3196 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for considering this testimony. **On behalf of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF), we are submitting testimony in support of HB 3196**, which appropriates money to the Department of Justice to backfill reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants.

Formed in 1999 by then Attorney General Hardy Meyers, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (or Oregon SATF) is a statewide, nongovernmental nonprofit. Our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. We accomplish our mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.

In 1984, Congress signed VOCA into law and created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). VOCA funding (appropriated from the CVF) is the primary source of federal grants for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and other crimes. It supports victims in some of the most high-risk scenarios who are experiencing strangulation, stalking, and an increased risk of serious injury and homicide. It also matches 75% of eligible state victim compensation funding.

Programs across Oregon rely on VOCA funding to provide services, including Children's Advocacy Centers, District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs), Community-based Nonprofit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Programs, and Campus Sexual Assault Programs. These grants fund vital services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, ranging from crisis intervention to long-term healing.

Since 2017, Oregon SATF has proudly partnered with Oregon's Department of Justice to facilitate VOCA funds for eight campus-based advocacy programs, focused on providing services for Oregon student survivors across the state. These services help ensure that Oregon students not only have compassionate, confidential care when they need it most, but assist Oregon students who experience sexual and domestic violence to stay in school, and complete their education. Now, these programs (serving over 200,000+ students in our state) are at risk of closure as continued VOCA funding cuts loom.

Additionally, these cuts threaten to decrease the already limited support services available in our state to support survivors of sexual violence, including every county-based domestic and sexual violence advocacy agency.

Bipartisan efforts are underway federally to create a long-term solution for the CVF, and your support in creating a bridge for organizations like ours to stabilize funding and our ability to offer life-saving services to survivors is essential. **We know that supporting victims of crime is a nonpartisan issue, and these efforts will continue.** There is a separate bill in the Oregon Senate to support a federal fix—[SJM 2](#) Urging Congress to fund VOCA.

For the above reasons, we urge you to support this request for bridge funding of VOCA grants by passing HB 3196. Crime victims and survivors in Oregon deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford. Organizations like ours that provide these services cannot continue delivering them without your support.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I welcome any opportunity to answer questions or share more about this work with you.

Sincerely,



Shannon Rose
Executive Director
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force