

Submitter: Rachel Schutz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Rachel Schutz, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Washington County and I am writing to express my support for HB 3196, which seeks to provide \$18.5 million in state funding to backfill the deep federal cuts to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants. Along with this bill to backfill VOCA funding, strong state funding is essential to maintain critical victim services throughout Oregon.

The Family Justice Center of Washington County partners with CARES Northwest, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Safety Compass, and Sexual Assault Resource Center each provide essential support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and are at serious risk without support from the state.

The impact of these cuts will be devastating. Programs at risk include our partners and those like them across the state:

- Children's Advocacy Centers
- District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs)
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs
- Campus Sexual Assault Programs

Oregon must act now to preserve the critical safety net for survivors. While Congress may take action in the future, relief from the federal government is uncertain. Without state funding, service providers will be forced to cut staff, limit hours, or shut down entirely, leaving survivors without the support they desperately need.

By passing HB 3196, Oregon can ensure that victim services remain intact, allowing organizations to continue providing crisis intervention, shelter, legal assistance, and advocacy for those in need.

To maintain stability despite federal uncertainty, the state must protect survivors and our organizations by prioritizing and increasing state funding for victim services, including establishing dedicated state funding streams.

Strong state investment, like this backfill, will ensure that critical programs remain operational, staff remain employed and, most importantly, all survivors receive uninterrupted care. Without this support, we risk turning victims away in their time of greatest need, and we risk further harm and abuse, including potential lethality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schutz, Executive Director  
Family Justice Center of Washington County