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INVESTIGATOR

February 1, 2025

House Early Childhood and Community Services (HECCS) committee

RE: HB 2842: Court and Community Care Program

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2848, and the request for funding to expand the Mid Valley Court and Community Care Program.

Within the Victim Assistance Division of the Marion County District Attorney's Office, our advocates walk alongside victims as they navigate the criminal justice system and help them address barriers to participating in that process. Additionally, we ensure that victims know and understand their rights with the process, and we help them assert those rights, so their voices are heard. Truly having access to the court process, being present in court when they want to be, and being heard when given the opportunity, are critical to a victim feeling included in their own case. For many victims, lack of safe and reliable child care is an obstacle to their participation and, as a result, they often feel like they are on the sidelines in their own case because they're not able to fully participate.

HB 2848 is a positive step towards eliminating an obstacle many victims of crime face in accessing and meaningfully participating in the court process. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pami Guerra
Director, Victim Assistance Division
Marion County District Attorney's Office