

Submitter:

Shari Fromm

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3196

As the program director of a local Oregon CASA program, I am writing to encourage the committee to support HB136 and adopt the -1 amendment to include CASA programs.

VOCA funds are essential in providing the much-needed CASA advocacy to children in foster care. CASAs report to the court the children's best interest. They provide a consistent adult in the lives of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma. These children have a lot of loss and upheaval in their lives. CASAs can be their support, encouragement, and voice in a scary world of many changes, lengthy hearings, setbacks, moves, losses, and delays.

CASAs make an impact in a child's life: A child was placed in foster care when their parents fled the state and left him behind. When people are late or cancel time with him, he believes they have given up on him and don't care about him. Given his trauma background, the CASA, determined to not be one more adult to let him down, quickly called an Uber when her own vehicle broke down on the way to visit him. She made it on time and showed him time after time she was someone he could depend on. He learned, through the CASA's example, that not all adults will let him down.

All children in foster care deserve the advocacy and support of a CASA.

Please adopt the -1 amendment that includes CASA programs and pass the bill out of committee.