

Submitter: Kyle Pace
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

Hello,

After retiring from the US Air Force in 2006, my family & I settled back into the Rogue Valley. In 2019 my brother invited me to become involved with CASA of Jackson & Josephine Counties. I was selected to be a board member where I have served since.

It quickly became apparent how vitally important CASA is to our community. Prior to volunteering with CASA, I had no idea that there were so many vulnerable children in our community who have suffered either abuse or neglect & who do not have a voice, someone who could advocate on their behalf. Without a CASA, these children must navigate basically alone through the process of the court system. The CASA volunteers who advocate for these children play a tremendous role in this process & the judges presiding over these cases listen carefully & put much weight on what they say & what their report has to say.

Without the vital VOCA funding, CASA will severely struggle to serve the needs of the vulnerable children of our community as well as several other departments that rely on VOCA funding such as the Oregon Child Advocacy Centers & the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

I respectfully ask that you please adopt the -1 amendment that includes CASA programs & pass the bill out of committee!

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Kyle Pace
Vice President, CASA of Jackson & Josephine County
USAF (Ret)