

Submitter: maria mrasek  
On Behalf Of: CASA  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

I have been a CASA for 4 years in Josephine County, I currently work with 6 incredible kiddos ranging age from 12-17. These kiddos are a part of an over crowded, over worked system. To have a CASA means they have a consistent mentor, someone looking out for them, on their team. I often speak to my kiddos about how to take charge of their future, their success. So often these kids are written off, left to fend for themselves with little to no mentorship, little faith in the ability to succeed and often, with zero encouragement.

I work closely with these kids teachers, therapists, case workers and resource parents to make sure these kids are being seen and believed. As a CASA, it is my responsibility and privilege to make sure the true story of who these kids are is shared with the judge, making sure she knows how incredible these kids are, what specifically their needs are and to speak up on their behalf. We have 32 CASAs trying to advocate for 160 kiddos. We need support, we need to train new CASAs and keep our team building strong.

Please keep approve this funding. It is vital to Josephine and Jackson counties.