



2/6/2025

Re: Support for Victims of Crime Act grants (HB 3196)

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Tides of Change, we are submitting testimony in support of HB 3196, which appropriates money to the Department of Justice to backfill reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants.

Tides of Change has been serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Tillamook County since 1982. Our mission is to provide hope, safety and support to those impacted by gender based violence and to shift cultural norms through advocacy, education and community collaboration. Tides of Change provides an array of crisis and healing based services to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. These services include crisis intervention, 24/7 crisis line, protection order assistance, accompaniment services, advocacy, counseling, support groups, emergency shelter and housing services. Our agency served 593 survivors in 2024 and provided 10,846 services.

Background

In 1984, Congress signed VOCA into law and created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). VOCA funding (appropriated from the CVF) is the primary source of federal grants for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and other crimes. It supports victims in some of the most high-risk scenarios who are experiencing strangulation, stalking, and an increased risk of serious injury and homicide. **It also matches 75% of eligible state victim compensation funding.**

Impact

Programs across the state rely on VOCA funding to provide services, including Children's Advocacy Centers, District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs), Community-based Nonprofit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Programs, and Campus Sexual Assault Programs. These grants fund vital services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, ranging from crisis intervention to long-term healing.

VOCA funds support several programs at Tides of Change and a reduction in these funds would dramatically impact our staffing and current service level. Last year, VOCA funded staff provided 2,461 services to 297 survivors in our agency. Tides of Change has built a long-standing relationships with law enforcement, healthcare, housing providers, and other human service providers in Tillamook County. These relationships often involve Tides of Change advocates responding to those agencies to support survivors in their systems. Reducing our services means that we would not be able to meet the need of all survivors and no longer could respond to all of our community partners at the current level of service we provide.

Bipartisan efforts are underway federally to create a long-term solution for the CVF, and your support in creating a bridge for organizations like ours to stabilize funding and our ability to offer life-saving services to



survivors is essential. We know that supporting victims of crime is a nonpartisan issue, and these efforts will continue. There is a separate bill in the Oregon Senate to support a federal fix—[SJM 2 Urging Congress to fund VOCA](#).

For the above reasons, we urge you to support this request for bridge funding of VOCA grants by passing HB 3196. Crime victims and survivors in Oregon deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford. Organizations like ours that provide these services cannot continue delivering them without your support. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Bundy", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Bundy, MA LPC NCC
Executive Director