

Department of County Human Services
Director's Office



February 5, 2025

Representative Kropf
House Committee On Judiciary
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3196

Dear Chair Kroft, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Multnomah County Department of County Human Services, I am writing to express support for HB 3196 to backfill reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants. In Oregon, VOCA grants provide funding to:

- 38 Non-profit domestic and sexual violence service programs
- 36 District Attorney's Offices in Oregon
- 22 Child advocacy centers
- 15 Service specific programs
- 12 Culturally specific survivor service programs
- 9 Campus programs
- 8 Tribal Nation programs
- 5 Human trafficking programs
- 2 City Attorney's Offices

Each year, these programs collectively support over 100,000 crime victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking through VOCA funds. HB 3196 will ensure these programs have the necessary funding to maintain current service levels. If HB 3196 is not passed, essential life-saving services for victims and survivors will be cut and some programs will be destabilized and may have to permanently close their doors. This will result in continued cycles of violence for some survivors and potentially the loss of lives for others.

In Multnomah County, VOCA funding provides victims and survivors with emergency domestic violence shelter and housing, 24/7 crisis line services, sexual assault hospital response, safety planning, support groups, culturally specific advocacy services, protective order assistance, legal services, assistance navigating the criminal justice

system and court accompaniment. For the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, the anticipated cut in VOCA grants will impact an estimated 2,000 victims through the reduction of 10,000 services and the loss of 3 Victim Advocate positions.

Every crime victim and survivor deserves support while navigating what are often the most dangerous and traumatic moments in their lives. HB 3196 continues Oregon's dedication to ensuring every Oregonian has access to safety services when they need them. Multnomah County strongly urges you to pass HB 3196.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mohammad Bader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mohammad" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bader".

Mohammad Bader, MS, LPS
Department Director
Multnomah County Department of County Human Services