Submitter: Karri Mirande

On Behalf Of: CASA for Children of Klamath County

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

February 6, 2025 House Committee on Judiciary Oregon State Legislature

Dear Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karri Mirande, I am the Executive Director of CASA for Children of Klamath County and have been in this position since 2014.

I have seen first hand the positive impact CASA programs have made on children in not only Klamath County, but across the state of Oregon.

I became involved with CASA after having raised my three children and I was so moved by the mission of CASA programs to be the voice of those children who might not otherwise have one.

Over the years I have bore witness to an overcrowding of a system that frankly at times is struggling to do their best by the children in their care, and this is where CASA advocates can make up the difference and collaborate with DHS for the maximum benefit for the child.

Without the VOCA funding the ability to recruit, train and support these much needed advocates is much more difficult.

I urge you to adopt the -1 amendment to HB 3196, ensuring CASA programs remain included, and to pass the bill out of committee. Our state's most vulnerable children need us to take action.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this issue, Karri Mirande Executive Director CASA for Children of Klamath County