

February 6, 2025



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

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

On behalf of Parrott Creek I am 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. While Parrott Creek is not a direct beneficiary of these grant funds, we partner with many local community organizations in our collective efforts to serve victims of crime. In particular, many of the vulnerable women and children in our Recovery Homes have been victims of domestic violence. We also provide treatment services to adolescents and families who have been victimized and abused and who have been supported on their road to justice and healing by services funded through VOCA.

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.

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.

Without these funds, critical services in local communities across Oregon will reduce or cease to exist entirely. This will result in more harm in our communities, more trauma and less healing. The burden of helping these victims will fall on other organizations without the requisite skills, or funding of their own, to serve them well. This will be a crisis of pain, fear, trauma and injustice.

Bipartisan efforts are underway federally to create a long-term solution for the CVF, and your support in creating a bridge for organizations is essential. We know that supporting victims of crime is a nonpartisan issue, and these efforts will continue.

For the above reasons, we urge you to pass HB 3196. Crime victims and survivors in Oregon deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SIMON FULFORD", written over a horizontal line.

Simon Fulford, Executive Director