

Submitter: Susan Donnelly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

I have had the privilege of working with children in the CASA program for the past 4 and half years in Marion County. I am a volunteer. In that time I have been assigned to 3 separate cases, with 3 children that had been through some very difficult situations. I won't tell you about all of them but for your benefit in making a decision about HB 3196, I will at least give you some information. My first kiddo was sexually assaulted by a family member. This family member had custody. When she was removed from her home she was very withdrawn and suffered from anxiety and depression. Because of the support of CASA and funding for therapy and necessary medical treatment she finished high school and went on to college. She still struggles but is a junior at UofO and credits much of her success to the support she received when the crime was reported. Her trauma is not unique, however the outcome could be if other children don't have the same support as my kiddos did.

I ask you adopt HB 3196 and pass the bill out of committee.