

Submitter: Bill Dixon
On Behalf Of: CASA
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

My name is Bill Dixon. My wife and I are longtime Salem residents who believe in the great work done by CASA of Marion County. We are writing to support House Bill 3196 and a forthcoming amendment to it.

This bill will allocate funds to the Oregon Department of Justice to backfill reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act grants. A forthcoming amendment to the bill would provide an additional \$3 million for Court Appointed Special Advocate programs. This means CASA programs statewide would be able to reconnect to critical VOCA funds during the next grant cycle, reestablishing an essential funding stream that programs have relied on to serve vulnerable children.

CASA programs are part of a larger system designed to protect children, and their work compliments the other entities that also rely on VOCA funding like Oregon Child Advocacy Centers or the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. I urge the committee to support protections for vulnerable children and advance HB 3196, including the -1 amendment that includes CASA programs.