

Submitter: Dana Castano

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

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

My name is Dana Castano, and I served as a volunteer at CASA of Marion County. I am writing to express my support for HB 3196 and urge the committee to adopt the -1 amendment and pass the bill out of committee.

VOCA funding has supported programs, such as CASA, for years. Without this critical funding backfill, programs reliant on VOCA funding will be forced to reduce services. Reducing services means fewer CASAs which in turn effects children and youth who will no longer receive the support they need and deserve to thrive.

For decades, CASA's model has proved effective in supporting vulnerable children and youth in the foster care system who have been abused or neglected. Children who are assigned a CASA tend to experience fewer placements, have better outcomes academically and behaviorally, and are less likely to reenter the child welfare system (Source: National CASA).

I advocate that the committee adopts the -1 amendment and passes HB 3196 out of committee so that programs like CASA can continue to provide critical services to children and youth.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dana Castano