



2/5/2025

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

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

On behalf of Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV), we are 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.

CARDV has been serving victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking since 1977. Consequent to such a long-established presence in the community, many service providers that have direct contact with victims are knowledgeable about our mission and services. CARDV is a dual agency that serves both victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. All survivor services from CARDV are free and confidential. CARDV remains the only provider of confidential shelters for victims and their families fleeing from sexual and domestic violence in Linn and Benton Counties of Oregon. CARDV also operates a 24-hour crisis and support line; legal and general advocacy; education and outreach; and support groups.

Background

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.**

Impact

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, ranging from crisis intervention to long-term healing.

VOCA funds have been crucial to our survivor services, enabling advocacy support, financial assistance directly to survivors to secure stable housing, and shelter-related costs. Without VOCA funding, our confidential shelter program and the assistance available to survivors would

be vastly different. A key example of this support is the provision of temporary emergency motel stays for survivors fleeing violence. CARDV uses motels for short-term stays (1-3 days) when they better meet the immediate needs of survivors and their families. In the last fiscal year, one case stands out: a male survivor with three children needed assistance relocating out of the area. CARDV provided the family with a night's stay in a local motel, along with safety planning, resource navigation, and bus ticket assistance. The following day, the family successfully relocated to a safe environment with relatives. This story exemplifies how short-term sheltering can be vital for survivors in urgent need of relocation.

Additional survivor feedback highlights the impact of our shelter and assistance programs:

- “Thank you so much for everything. You’ve helped more than I could have imagined. You made a difficult situation easier. Thank you!”
- “CARDV has helped me in many ways—resources, personal support, and safe places for my children and me. Thank you!!”
- “The care and efficiently communicated concern for my welfare was exactly what I needed. Thank you so much.”

Bipartisan efforts are underway federally to create a long-term solution for the CVF, and your support in creating a bridge for organizations like ours to stabilize funding and our ability to offer life-saving services to survivors is essential. We know that supporting victims of crime is a nonpartisan issue, and these efforts will continue. There is a separate bill in the Oregon Senate to support a federal fix—[SJM 2 Urging Congress to fund VOCA](#).

For the above reasons, we urge you to support this request for bridge funding of VOCA grants by passing HB 3196. Crime victims and survivors in Oregon deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford. Organizations like ours that provide these services cannot continue delivering them without your support. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



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