



**Support House Bill 3196  
House Committee on Judiciary  
February 7th, 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 Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, 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.

PCA Oregon is a state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America - the oldest and largest nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. We focus most of our work on primary prevention efforts that get families the support they need before a crisis occurs. We also partner with many organizations that provide critical trauma-informed support to kids and families after harm has already occurred. These services are vital to ensure that further harm is prevented. These partners include Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Programs.

## **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.

Reflecting on my time as a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker for the State of Oregon, I remember being assigned to support families after a child sexual abuse occurred. In such situations, CPS workers collaborate with Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), which provide essential medical and forensic examinations and interviews to fully understand the scope and impact of the abuse. These programs play a vital role in how we address child sexual abuse in Oregon, ensuring that trained professionals are always available to support children and families with a trauma-informed, person-centered approach that minimizes the risk of further harm.

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 wellbeing these funds afford. Organizations, like many of the 30+ members of our Child Abuse Prevention Collaborative, that provide these types of services cannot continue delivering them without your support.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Oregon's children, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Cunningham  
*Executive Director*  
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon