

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

I respectfully urge your support of HB 3196, which provides critical funding that will keep victims services at current service level.

HB 3196 provides \$21.5M state dollars to backfill cuts to the Federal VOCA program.

The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the primary source of federal grants for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, attempted homicide, and other crimes. Oregon was recently alerted that federal VOCA funds are being cut by 42%.

At my CAC, we get about \$175,000 in VOCA dollars per year from two grants. Nearly all of these funds go towards personnel costs, the remainder for training. One grant covers Child and Family Advocates, the other covers Coordination of the Human Trafficking Task Force for Lincoln County.

A cut of these VOCA dollars would result in a reduction of critical staff at my center.

The \$21.5M contemplated in HB 3196 would cover cuts to CACs, and also to other entities like Children's Advocacy Centers:

- District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs)

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Programs

- Campus Sexual Assault Programs

The need for this funding is urgent. The Emergency Board was able to take limited action in September 2024, but more cuts are coming in the summer of 2025 and the Legislature must take action to provide a \$21.5M backfill to protect services.

Congress may take action, but that relief likely would not come until after programs are cut in Oregon in the summer of 2025. We urgently need the Legislature's help.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Paul Schrader

Executive Director – Children's Advocacy Center of Lincoln County

Board Chair – Oregon Child Abuse Solutions