



Representative Hoa Nguyen  
Oregon House District 48

HB 3196 - SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

2/6 House Judiciary Committee

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallace, and members of the committee,

My name is Hoa Nguyen, and I am the state representative for House District 48, which covers outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

I am here to testify in support of HB 3196, which ensures the continued protection of services for survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence by addressing the funding shortfall caused by recent federal cuts.

Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) is the statewide network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), which are critical in providing forensic interviews, medical exams, family advocacy, and other essential services to children and families when child abuse is suspected. In 2023, Oregon's CACs served over 7,000 children, and every child in the state is within two hours of a CAC.

The largest and most persistent challenge for CACs is securing funding to sustain their specialized staff. These staff members are vital to the work of CACs, and their roles cannot be maintained through one-time funding sources.

Underfunding CACs does not only affect the centers themselves; it has a ripple effect across other essential services. Law enforcement, prosecutors, and child welfare agencies all rely on CACs to provide critical services that ensure child safety and support criminal investigations. Without adequate funding, these agencies struggle to fulfill their missions effectively.

Additionally, CACs are not only focused on providing services but are also heavily invested in the prevention of child abuse in their communities. However, the critical prevention efforts they lead are not covered by any existing state or federal funding.

The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the primary federal source for grants to support victim services, including those for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, attempted homicide, and other crimes. Recently, Oregon was notified of a 42% cut to federal VOCA funds, which will have a severe impact on these vital services.

I urge you to support HB 3196 to protect the essential services for survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence in our state.

Thank you for your time and attention.