



Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary

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Testimony in Support of HB 3196

By: Shannon Wight - Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 3196. Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) advocates for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 25 years, our work has promoted community and public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

Every victim and survivor of crime deserves our state's support while they push through traumatic and challenging moments in their lives. PSJ has long been supportive of funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services fund (ODSVS), and other appropriations that support community-based programming that serve those in need.

As you heard in public testimony on this bill, Oregon is experiencing a significant drop in available VOCA resources appropriated by the federal government. Such reductions in resources would have devastating impacts for victims and survivors of crime.

While we recognize that Congress is working towards long-term solutions to stabilize this funding source, it's critical that the Oregon Legislature appropriate resources to bridge the gap in funding to ensure that the programs that provide life-saving services across our state are able to continue doing so.

HB 3196 would appropriate the needed resources to ensure that programs who are put at-risk by the drops in federal appropriations will continue to be supported. Partnership for Safety and Justice urges your strong support for this important measure.