

Submitter: Christopher Janetzko
On Behalf Of: Columbia Gorge CASA
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

I strongly urge the committee to support House Bill 3196, which allocates funding to the Oregon Department of Justice to backfill reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act grants, a critical resource for programs like Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). With the added \$3 million for CASA through a forthcoming amendment, we can restore the vital funding that CASA programs rely on to serve children in need. CASA volunteers are a lifeline for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, providing advocacy in the courtroom and ensuring that these children receive the support they deserve during one of the most difficult times of their lives. Without this funding, many children could face the unfortunate reality of being left without an advocate. Now is the time for lawmakers to act, adopt the -1 amendment, and move this bill forward to ensure CASA programs statewide can continue their indispensable work. Your support is crucial to making this happen, and I urge you to advocate for the passage of this legislation.