

April 4, 2025

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety,

On behalf of the Center for Hope & Safety we are submitting testimony in support of HB 5014, the Department of Justice (DOJ) 2025-2027 Agency Request Budget (ARB). We urgently request that the Legislature support Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault organizations at our **current service level**. We greatly appreciate Attorney General Rayfield's commitment to victims in Oregon and our long-term partnership with DOJ to be able to support thousands of survivors and their children each year.



Operating since 1973, Center for Hope & Safety's mission is to provide a safe environment for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking and to educate the public about the issues surrounding victimization. Our program responds directly to the needs identified by survivors of violence and our philosophy reflects the survivors' right to receive information about abuse and their right to make their own choices from a wide range of options.

Last year we served 11,300 survivors in person, provided over 10,000 nights of emergency shelter, and had 38,000 contacts to our organization for information, crisis services, and safety planning.

In order to remain at our current level of service for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, the Legislature must fully fund the DOJ ARB including the following:

- **POP #327 ensures that the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault organizations have ongoing Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) funding at \$10M and Survivor Housing Funds of \$6M. The total cost of the POP is \$22M and includes critical support for Children's Advocacy Centers too.**
- **House Bill 3196 continues funding levels for interdisciplinary crime victim services programs at domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse programs across the state at \$18.5M.**

If these funds aren't allocated it will drastically diminish our ability to serve victims of Domestic Violence statewide. Reductions will mean that abuse victims and their children have fewer options and are at serious risk of harm or even death. Thank you for your support and consideration of my testimony as you make difficult choices this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ashley Carson, Executive Director

Center for Hope & Safety

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence