

Submitter: Sandra Cummings  
On Behalf Of: Support for HB 3196 and POP 327 for CACs  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

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

Thank you for your commitment to serve our residents. As a member of the KIDS Center Board of Directors and a member of the Central Oregon community, I'm writing to ask you to please support the following two measures, which will help ensure Current Service Levels for KIDS Center and our fellow Children's Advocacy Centers statewide:

1. HB 3196 - \$18.5M to Backfill Federal Cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)  
Funding: Children's Advocacy Centers receive federal funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which is being cut by 42%. After the close of the 2024 Session, Oregon was notified that this federal funding will be reduced, and without intervention, KIDS Center will lose over \$138,000. HB 3196 (2025) provides \$18.5M in one-time funding to backfill these cuts for VOCA grantees, as well as \$3M for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This funding will support Children's Advocacy Centers, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs, Campus Sexual Assault Programs, and District Attorney Victims Assistance Programs, all of which are facing the same 42% reduction.

2. DOJ POP #327 - Stabilizing State Dollars for Children's Advocacy Centers: The 2021 and 2023 Legislatures allocated \$6M to help Children's Advocacy Centers increase our capacity. KIDS Center used these funds to serve 13% more children in 2023 and another 5% more in 2024. In 2025, we are on track to serve 10% more children than in 2024. These children are referred to us by law enforcement or ODOJ-Child Welfare during active investigations. DOJ POP #327 ensures this funding continues at the Current Service Level, enabling us to meet the growing need for services in our communities.

Without these funds, KIDS Center will be forced to reduce staff, which will lead to fewer children will receiving trauma-informed care and a coordinated response to abuse, which often leads to long-term psychological harm and a weakened justice system's ability to protect vulnerable children. Keeping abused children safe and healthy should be a priority for all of us in positions to do so. Please help Children's Advocacy Centers with the needed funds so they can continue to do this important work and not lead to long delays in children being seen and helped. Wait times for children to be seen can also lead to delays in child abuse investigations and

prosecutions of perpetrators.

Children are our future. Let's help them start their healing as soon as we possibly can.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Cummings  
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