

Submitter: Christopher Janetzko
On Behalf Of: Columbia Gorge CASA
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

Co-Chairs Senator Broadman and Representative Evans, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christopher Janetzko, and I am the Executive Director of Columbia Gorge CASA, which advocates for children in Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties. I urge you to fully fund HB 5014 to support critical services for vulnerable children throughout Oregon and to strongly support HB 3196, which will restore lost federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds.

HB 5014 is vital to ensuring continued services for children who need advocacy. Full funding will help programs like ours provide the necessary advocacy and support for children experiencing foster care. Additionally, HB 3196's \$18.5 million in one-time funding, along with \$3 million for CASA programs, is crucial for backfilling lost VOCA funds, enabling us to continue our important work.

We collaborate with organizations like Children's Advocacy Centers and Domestic Violence Programs to ensure comprehensive support for children. These partnerships create a coordinated, trauma-informed response, benefiting the entire community and ensuring no child falls through the cracks.

I respectfully urge you to fully fund HB 5014 and pass HB 3196 to restore essential funding for programs supporting vulnerable children across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher Janetzko
Executive Director,
Columbia Gorge CASA