

February 10, 2025

TO: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda

RE: HB 5014: Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) /
Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) / VOCA Backfill

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of
the Committee,

My name is Marley Chavarria and I am a Policy & Advocacy Intern at Our
Children Oregon. Our Children Oregon (OCO) is a statewide organization that
advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy.
The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, brings together ~135 organizations
statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the
well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a
2025 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to
provide access and opportunities for all children and families.

During this session, it is vital to to maintain and protect critical funding for
victims of crime. The Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund
(ODSVS) keeps services available to survivors and their children. This is
through culturally-specific, confidential, and community-based programs
across Oregon. These programs are the first thing that survivors of domestic
and sexual violence face. Currently, ODSVS funding levels are short of the total
number estimated to fully meet the needs of survivors and their children in
Oregon. We are asking for \$2 million dollars in one time funding rolled into
current service level funding for ODSVS.

It has been found that Domestic and Sexual Violence are a leading cause of homelessness. While trying to maintain safety, affordable housing can be challenging to find. Victim service providers use Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) resources to build safe housing. We are asking for \$2 million dollars in one-time funding rolled up into current service level funding.

After the end of the 2024 Session, Oregon was notified that federal One-Time Victims of Crime Act Gap Funding (VOCA) was being cut by 42%. VOCA funds grants for various victim assistance programs and sexual assault programs across Oregon. Due to this, many of the grant-supported services will not exist. We are asking for \$18 million dollars in one-time funding.

We support HB 5014 to obtain funding for Victims of Crime to increase safety and stability in their lives. Thank you for your time and for the work you do for the children and families of Oregon.

I strongly urge you to **vote YES on HB 5014, Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund, Survivor Housing Fund, and VOCA Backfill Testimony.**

Best,
Marley Chavarria

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](https://www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2025-childrens-agenda)