SUPPORT POP 327: Prevent Cuts to Basic Critical Services:

Current Service Level for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse

\$22 Million to continue Current Service Level in the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division of the Department of Justice Budget HB 5014

Oregon Alliance to End Gender Based Violence









Fully funding DoJ POP #327 in the Department of Justice ongoing budget would stabilize access to services and programs for victims of child abuse and domestic or sexual violence.

- Service providers received \$22M in funding in 2021 and in 2023 to increase their capacity and access to services. This funding does not fully fund these entities.
- In 2024, the Legislature recognized the importance of continuing this funding and unanimously passed HB 4140, which states that the increased investment should be considered current service level moving forward.
- POP #327 funds these services at CSL for the 2025 biennium.

Stabilize Investments

POP #327 contains \$22M, the amount needed to keep promised continued service levels for Children's Advocacy Centers, the Survivor Housing Fund, and Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund, assuming that other sources of funding are not decreased.

We are grateful that the 2021 and 2023 Legislatures recognized that the state has been chronically underfunding services to crime victims. The additional investments made in those years boosted capacity at victim service centers, as most providers used the funding to hire new positions. In 2024, the Legislature recognized the importance of this increased capacity and unanimously passed HB 4140, which stated that these funds are to be considered current service level moving forward. POP #327 cements the continuation of these funds.

Children's Advocacy Centers: \$6M to Children's Advocacy Center Fund \$10M for Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services (0DSVS) Fund

\$6M for Survivor Housing Fund

Children's Advocacy Centers are the state's mandated and unique resource for the assessment, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and the associated trauma, in order to promote health and hope in children, youth, families, and communities. These funds support positions like:

- CAC of Lincoln County, which used the funding to add a specially trained pediatrician to conduct medical exams one day per week (previously had no on-site medical exams).
- Douglas CARES (Douglas County), which increased FTE for medical and therapy providers.
- Liberty House (Marion, Polk), which hired a full-time bilingual Family Support Specialist and a full-time staff interpreter.

These funds provide support for the network of confidential, trauma-informed, community-based and culturally-specific programs providing shelter, safety planning, hotline, and advocacy services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence (DSV) and their children across the state. There has been an increase in demand for shelter services as a result of the housing crisis. Without this investment into ongoing funding, programs will be forced to lay off staff and will have reduced capacity to provide critical life-saving safety and advocacy services. This specific funding has proven to help DSV survivors find and maintain safe housing. In the midst of this housing shortage and affordability crisis, more survivors seeking safety from abuse face greater barriers to finding safe and stable homes. Continuation of the SHF fund will ensure that survivors have navigation and assistance services in finding and maintaining safe housing for themselves and their children. Without this investment, more survivors will become homeless, or face the untenable choice between homelessness and an unsafe abusive home.