

Submitter: Sarah Schroeder  
On Behalf Of: Survivor Services POP 327 and HB 3196  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

April 16, 2025

Re: Policy Option Package 327 and HB 3196

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I urge you to pass two pieces of legislation. The first is the Department of Justice Budget POP# 327 that will provide ongoing funding to stabilize critical survivor services programs (\$22M). This will maintain the same funding levels as in past years to ensure survivors of interpersonal violence can access the support they need and deserve, including crisis intervention, emergency shelter, safety planning, and advocacy.

The second is HB 3196, which will backfill VOCA funding (\$18.5M). Federal legislators are actively working on a sustainable fix for VOCA (H.R. 909), which has bipartisan support and, at last count, 148 co-sponsors. This one-time investment will ensure that when crime victims turn to agencies and systems providers for support, help will be there.

In my work as a licensed therapist, I see the difference services make in the lives of survivors. I come into contact each day with women who are seeking therapy to heal the wounds of domestic and sexual violence. I have worked with women who could not have left their abusive partners without resources provided by DVSA organizations. Many women do not have financial or social resources organically available to them, and they depend greatly on the support they receive from social safety net programs. Many of the individuals I have worked with have been able to successfully leave an abusive situation and start providing for themselves and their children as a direct result of receiving temporary housing assistance. These individuals have stated many times that without housing assistance and other supports from DVSA organizations they would have been too afraid to leave and possibly be without a safe place to live.

As a voter and constituent, I urge you to vote in favor of POP# 327 and HB 3196. These funds are crucial for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schroeder  
Resident of Portland, OR