



4/17/2025

Testimony Before the Committee

**Stephanie Miller, Executive Director, Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV)
In Support of POP 327, House Bill 3196, and Restoration of VOCA Funding**

Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Good morning, my name is Stephanie Miller, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence—CARDV—in Corvallis. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today in strong support of Policy Option Package 327, House Bill 3196, and the urgent need to restore funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which has been reduced by 42%.

These are not merely budgetary decisions—they are decisions that directly impact the safety, wellbeing, and futures of survivors of domestic and sexual violence, as well as their children. At CARDV, VOCA and state survivor funding account for just over one-third of our \$1.9 million annual budget. These resources are vital to sustaining our core services.

Since 1977, CARDV has been the sole provider of confidential emergency shelter for individuals fleeing domestic violence in Linn and Benton Counties. We offer a 24-hour crisis line, legal and survivor advocacy, support groups, and emergency shelter—all provided free of charge.

In the past year alone, our team responded to over 4,000 crisis calls and provided emergency shelter to 127 survivors and their children—60% of whom were under the age of six. These services are not only essential; they are lifesaving.

To illustrate the impact of our work, I'd like to share a story. At 4 a.m., one of our advocates received a call from a survivor—we'll call her Maria—who was whispering so her abuser wouldn't hear. Within an hour, Maria and her children were safely in our shelter, where they received advocacy, support, and resources to begin their journey toward safety and healing.

Stories like Maria's are not rare—they occur every week. They happen because CARDV and organizations like ours are available 24/7. Survivors need support the moment they reach out.

Without sustained VOCA funding, POP 327, and the passage of HB 3196, programs like ours face the serious risk of reducing services, laying off staff, or closing entirely. That would mean turning survivors away at the very moment they find the courage to ask for help.

On behalf of CARDV and the communities we serve, I respectfully urge you to invest in the safety, dignity, and healing of survivors across Oregon. Your support ensures that when a survivor calls for help, someone will be there to answer.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Miller, Executive Director