

4/16/2025

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.

As a survivor of teen dating violence and sexual violence, I know the power that community support has on healing from these traumas. Without this funding, those impacted by domestic and sexual violence may be left without that community support that is so critical in breaking the isolation that many survivors feel.

As part of my own healing journey, it was important for me to be engaged in community support for those healing from domestic and/or sexual violence. I've had the privilege of working alongside survivors as an advocate and mental health clinician for the past 20 years. This has afforded me the opportunity to bear witness to the full spectrum of hundreds of survivor experiences – the resiliency, the fear, the joy, the pain, the hope. Each one of them deserves safety, support, and opportunities to thrive within their healing journeys.

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,

Catherine
Resident of Oregon City