

Submitter: Katelyn Renshaw
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

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety,

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.

Survivors in Oregon are deserving of care, safety, shelter, and advocacy. The care that this budget will help provide to survivors will change the lives of survivors at the time they most need it. I have known entirely too many sexual assault survivors and have known the care they have received to be of utmost importance in how they are able to process and stay safe after an assault. The safety that future survivors can receive from this funding, in crisis response and emergency shelters is of paramount importance. The care they receive during that time is life saving. Removing this budget will negatively affect survivors and will reduce the safety of survivors and could result in potential loss of lives.

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,
Katelyn Renshaw
Resident of Portland