

Submitter: Hannah Sonnen
On Behalf Of: Survivor Services POP 327 and HB 3196
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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 physical and sexual violence, I have felt scared, lonely, guilty. I have worried about countless things at risk; my health, my safety, my job, my future, my friendships, and my family. I didn't know where to turn or who to talk to, because I felt like it was my burden to carry. Thankfully, there were helpful sites with information and videos posted by organizations throughout our state for this exact reason. By learning more, I was able to access the medical care needed and feel valid in doing so. Survivor services impact individuals in a multitude of ways, some of which can never be tracked or reported. I received help from so many organizations by accessing the information on their websites. Other survivors access chatlines and crisis lines. Others access walk-in centers, shelters, housing programs, and many more. Without the critical services funded by these bills, survivors across our state will be alone and unsupported. We will feel silenced and isolated. Don't treat us the way that we used to be treated.

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,

Hannah Sonnen
Resident of Clackamas County