

April 17, 2025

Re: **Policy Option Package 327 and HB 3196**

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.

In my work as a confidential victim advocate, I witness daily the impact that access to services this funding would provide to survivors. My participants come from various backgrounds, and each has unique experiences, but they all have one thing in common: they are vulnerable and often have nowhere else to turn. While organizations like the one I work for provide survivors with emotional, social, and systems support that is so crucial when leaving a violent relationship, the most service I provide is letting them know that they don't have to go through this alone. Maintaining current funding levels will allow advocates to continue to help those impacted by violence survive and thrive.

**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,

Margaret McCann  
Resident of Portland