

Support for HB 3196 (2025)

Children who have experienced abuse and neglect from their primary caregivers and are in foster care are perhaps one of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations there is. Under Oregon law, “child abuse” is “any assault of a child and any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means,” including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment, threatened harm, and exposure to a controlled substance. In Central Oregon, the CASA is often the only consistent adult presence in a child’s life during their time in foster care. A child will experience several different caseworkers and will likely live in several resource homes during their time in care but will have just one CASA. The ongoing support of a trusted person can be the key to that child achieving a greater degree of resilience and recovery from trauma.

HB 3196 provides \$18.5M in one time funding to backfill lost federal Victims of Crime Act funds. This bill will provide \$3M to CASA programs in Oregon. This funding is critical to our ability to serve child victims of crime in Central Oregon. The loss of VOCA funding would result in a significant reduction in the number of volunteer CASAs serving children. This would have terrible implications for the children who need an advocate the most.

I strongly support HB 3196 (2025)

Sincerely,

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