



February 5, 2015

Oregon House Committee on Health Care
Re: HB 2234

Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

As the Statewide Manager for the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, I work with centers throughout the state who provide services to over 6000 Oregon children each year. There are 21 centers throughout Oregon and while they vary in size and in the services they provide, the core services provided when there are concerns of abuse include: forensic interviews, medical evaluations, mental health treatment or referrals, and coordination of victims services. Centers also work in partnership with child protective services, law enforcement and other medical and mental health providers based on the need of each individual child.

Centers across the state are grateful for the funds they currently receive from the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Account (CAMI) (described in ORS 418.746 and ORS 418.783), however these funds are not adequate to address the costs of services. Centers must be able to bill insurers for the specialized medical assessments, including the critical forensic interview portion of the assessment and family support services which are both currently not billable at all.

75% of the children seen across the state are medicaid-covered patients. Even for the portion of the assessment that centers currently are able to bill for, they only receive reimbursements for an average of 24% of the amount submitted, meaning centers have to rely on their local communities to help make up the deficit through fundraising. All Oregon CAICs serve children regardless of their ability to pay. This is especially difficult for small and rural centers with limited staff and resources.

HB 2234, provides centers a statewide solution to a growing problem! We encourage you to support this bill requiring the Oregon Health Authority and insurers to fund specific billing codes or create alternative mechanisms to enable CAICs to reimburse for critical child abuse assessment services.

Sincerely,

Patty Terzian
ONCAIC Statewide Manager

