



March 24, 2015

Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair  
Sen. Chip Shields, Co-Chair  
Committee On Ways and Means, Subcommittee On Public Safety  
Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5516

Dear Representative Williamson, Senator Shields, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety:

As the Statewide Manager of the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (ONCAIC), I write to support SB 5516, with continued funding for the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Account (CAMI) Grants. The funds from the CAMI grants are used in our state to support child abuse assessments, and the multidisciplinary team coordination in child abuse investigations.

In Oregon 63,000 child abuse reports were made to the Department of Human Services (DHS) each year over the past ten years, with about 11,000 confirmed victims each year. In Oregon, 20 children die each year as a direct result of abuse. CAMI grants are critical for the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) statutorily required in each county to respond when there are concerns of child abuse. Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs) throughout Oregon are key partners and members of their county Multidisciplinary Teams, serving 6,200 children annually.

In addition to the child abuse assessments provided by MDTs and CAICs to children when there are concerns of abuse, CAMI grants allow law enforcement, DHS, CAICs, and other members of the MDT to collaborate on cases using evidence-based practices which are better for kids, and ultimately save money. Research has shown that communities using the combined MDT and center approach can save more than \$1,000 per child abuse investigation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Children's Advocacy Center: *Executive Summary Findings From the NCAC Cost-Benefit Analysis of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment*

Funds from CAMI are also critical in providing specialized professional training and equipment that CAIC staff and other members of the MDT need in order to respond effectively in child abuse cases. MDTs often use a portion of their CAMI funding to provide necessary training for professionals in their community. In addition, Regional Service Providers (RSPs) and ONCAIC, in collaboration with Oregon Department of Justice, train 90 professionals in interviewing best practices through the Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training each year. RSPs provide other key services in their regions as well including complex case consultation, peer review for interviewers and medical providers, referrals and information and medical assessment training.

CAMI funds are critical to Oregon's response to child abuse. After seeing significant reductions in CAMI funding in 2009 through 2013 bienniums, the current budget proposal restores funding back to 2009 levels. The ONCAIC supports the CAMI funding proposed in SB 5516. While these funds still leave communities understaffed to meet the needs, we believe it's a step in the right direction.

Please direct any questions or requests for additional information to Patty Terzian, [pattyt@childabuseintervention.org](mailto:pattyt@childabuseintervention.org) or 971-506-2555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Terzian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patty Terzian  
Statewide Manager  
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers