



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2015

TO: Honorable Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair  
Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair  
Public Safety Subcommittee of Ways and Means

FROM: Aaron Knott, Legislative Director

SUBJECT: HB 2205 – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Intervention Fund

This testimony is presented in support of HB 2205.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the last year and a half, the Attorney General has been privileged to participate in a workgroup led by former Representative Carolyn Tomei addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). This workgroup included direct participation from state legislators, advocates, Sen. Ron Wyden, US Attorney Amanda Marshall, DHS, OHA, law enforcement and others. This multidisciplinary group undertook a survey of the profound logistical and legal difficulties which facilitate the commission of CSEC offenses and recommended a package of solutions. One of the many ideas proposed by that group was to allow the Crime Victims Services Division (CVSD) of the Department of Justice to create a mechanism by which private donations could be utilized to fund CSEC intervention efforts. An Advisory Committee was recommended for creation to provide guidance for the use of these funds. In the fall of 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OHA and DOJ outlining the creation of an Advisory Committee which would serve as a panel of experts on CSEC, establish statewide CSEC priorities, review of how state funding is currently spent on CSEC and what deficiencies exist, provide recommendation for the use of future CSEC funds, both public and private, and provide consultation and recommendations to Morrison Child and Family Services regarding the administration of a CSEC shelter created by legislative and agency collaboration in 2014.

DOJ-CVSD exists in part to serve as a passthrough agency for the distribution of various funds. Currently DOJ-CVSD receives nearly \$ 40 million in grant funding per biennium to be allocated according to recommendations made by multidisciplinary advisory boards. DOJ-CVSD is experienced with the receipt of private funds for public purpose. The Sexual Assault Victim Emergency (SAVE) Fund was created by ORS 147.399. The money collected by any private donations to this fund are used to offset the costs of a sexual assault forensic evaluations.

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## **HB 2205 WILL ALLOW OREGON TO ACCESS PRIVATE FUNDS TO FIGHT CSEC**

Like with SAVE, HB 2205 allows DOJ-CVSD to serve as a passthrough for private funds. This will allow private donors to provide assistance to fund services, intervention and treatment for children who have been or may become victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The donor community has indicated their support these efforts and are looking only for a mechanism which will allow them to show their support. HB 2205 provides this mechanism.

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