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February 5, 2016

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1550

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the children served by Liberty House, the child abuse assessment center serving Marion County and one of two serving Polk County, I write in concurrence with the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers' (ONCAIC) opposition to SB 1550 in its current form, as Introduced. However, my colleagues and I request to collaborate on amended language that would address our concerns and strongly encourage you to consider that as an option, from a standpoint of procedure.

Specifically, we request an amendment that, for the purpose of allowing a peace officer to introduce testimony on behalf of a child, **would raise the age of a child, mentioned in Section (5)(13)(b) from 15 to 18.** The rationale is that many child abuse victims suffer extensive trauma. There are already huge barriers children have to overcome in order to disclose abuse: fear, shame, guilt, fear of retaliation, fear of what the offender will do to Mom, etc. **Recording grand jury proceedings would have a chilling effect on child victims and have a negative impact on child victims' access to justice. In most other areas of law the definition of "child" means from birth through age 17, so this bill should protect child victims under 18.**

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison S. Kelley