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February 5, 2016

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

Re: SB 1556

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) support of SB 1556.

This bill that recognizes children are vulnerable victims and thus the definition of physical injury should include additional language. The ONCAIC supports this bill. The rationale is that the prior definition of physical injury was too narrow to allow for injuries that victims of child abuse often suffer. This bill assists child victims with access to justice.

As one of my colleagues recently noted, this bill would bring the treatment of child abuse victims in line with the standard already in place for animal abuse victims. That seems reasonable to me.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison S. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Alison S. Kelley