



April 5, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Committee On Ways and Means, Joint Subcommittee On Public Safety
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 5015

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

As the Executive Director of the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (ONCAIC), I am write to support HB 5015, with continued funding for the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Account (CAMI) Grants provided through the Department of Justice Crime Victims Services Diviision. 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 there were close to 70,000 reports or abuse and neglect made to the Department of Human Services in FFY 2015 with over 10,000 confirmed vctims. In Oregon, 27 children died during this same period year as a direct result of abuse and neglect. 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 6,600 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.¹

Funds from the Crime Victims Services Division 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 only one revenue source that communities must rely upon to serve children, but every dollar is critical. Crime Victims Services Division must be funded adequately to ensure critical services are available to children throughout the state when there are concerns of abuse, and that CAICs are available to provide the life saving response necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Terzian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dash above the "i" in "Terzian".

Patty Terzian
Statewide Manager
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers

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