



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

Senator Winters, Representative Stark, members of the Committee On Ways and Means, Joint Subcommittee On Public Safety:

I am writing this letter to state my support of the work done by our state's Crime Victims Services Division and underline the importance of continued funding of the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Fund.

CAMI funds are crucial in keeping services in place for the most vulnerable victims of abuse. Without these funds Child Abuse Intervention Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) in our state's counties would be hard pressed to provide intervention, advocacy and other services to the victims of child abuse in our communities, For example, the District Attorney in Curry County allocates all the funds from this grant to be used for the purpose of staffing a forensic interviewer for our child victims. If we did not have CAMI funds, our county would not be able to assure there is someone to respond to the needs of The Department of Human Services and Law Enforcement to conduct these specialized interviews.

Currently, our funding from CAMI, in Curry County, is \$38,210.50 a year. That pays for a .4 FTE position, and makes sure there is someone to do child forensic interviews, coordinate our MDT, and organize our county's child fatality reviews, when needed. That is 16 hours a week that is funded to ensure that our MDT has an agenda to review and take the necessary action to intervene in child abuse cases; interview victims; track cases and data; stay current on best practices and trainings, and organize trainings for other MDT members. This only scratches the surface of the duties of this position in our county.

I encourage you to continue these lifesaving funds to our counties in order to ensure the services required in our state's statutes are able to be carried out. Maintaining or even increasing funding to CVSD and the CAMI Fund is necessary to insuring these services remain. Without our MDTs and those dedicated servants that comprise them, children in our state will suffer, and die.

Respectfully,

Jackalene J. Antunes
Curry County Child Abuse Intervention Center's Coordinator, Director, and Interviewer

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To provide prevention of child abuse and neglect for all children while insuring intervention and advocacy for those who are the suspected victims of child abuse, for their support and healing.