



April 10, 2017

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2211 -3

Dear Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

HB 2234 passed in the 2015 session to allow Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs) to bill health benefit providers for services related to child abuse assessments. The law requires health benefit providers to reimburse CAICs for child abuse assessments and ensure that these reimbursements are proportionate to the scope and intensity of services provided. **HB 2234 was created to provide consistent support across the state to help ensure that these services are available for all children for whom there are concerns of abuse.**

Our organization has spent many hours working with OHA and individual benefit providers to provide education about child abuse assessments and about the requirements of the law, yet some centers have received no response from their CCO, can't connect to the right person in their CCO (or even identify who that is), or are being told that their CCO can't or will not renegotiate a better rate.

HB 2221 -3 clearly defines expectations for reimbursement and provides OHA and CCOs guidance on these expectations. The bill-reporting requirement was adjusted to allow for annual reporting by OHA, and outlines how the costs shall be covered. Additionally, it requires notification by OHA if there is reason to believe these services can't or will not be priorities, and a recommendation on steps that can be taken ensure these life-saving services can be provided by the CAICs.

CAICs need leadership from OHA to ensure the law is having the intended impact. Oregon's children deserve access to these critical services, and it's imperative that we ensure the sustainability of these services by improving our reimbursement rates.

Sincerely,

Patty Terzian
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers