

Testimony in support of HB 3464 House Committee on Rules Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director June 8, 2017

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of Oregon Abuse Advocates and Survivors in Service (OAASIS) in support of HB 3464. HB 3464 will strengthen privacy protections for some of our most vulnerable Oregonians and facilitate access to safety and support.

OAASIS is building a movement that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma; all relationships are based on equity and respect; and all people who have been sexually abused are supported to heal.

We believe that all people who were sexually abused as children deserve to be—and feel—safe. Safety and healing are inextricably linked. Safety requires appropriate accountability for people who sexually abuse children, as well as evidence-based treatment so people do not harm again; access to healing for people who were sexually abused; and community investment to prevent child sexual abuse and support survivors.

OAASIS advocates for policies that enable everyone to access safety and support. We support dismantling barriers that place additional burdens on many people who were sexually abused as children, including Oregonians who were born in other countries.

HB 3464 provides clarity to Oregon's public employees on their role and what information is appropriate to share with federal officials. HB 3464 also reassures survivors of child sexual abuse and their supportive parents that they can access the justice system and safety-net services without having their private information used in ways that can cause harm.

We hope you'll join us in supporting HB 3464. Thank you for your time and consideration.