



Testimony in support of HB 5005
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
February 14, 2017

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Stark, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates & Survivors in Service (OAASIS). OAASIS is building a movement that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. Our base is comprised of thousands of Oregonians—people who were sexually abused as children, survivors’ family members and loved ones, and community members who care about the safety, health, and well-being of survivors of child sexual abuse. We are working towards a future where all children are safe and loved and all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma.

We are pleased to support investing \$41.3 million into Justice Reinvestment programs. Justice Reinvestment funding is an important part of building safe, healthy communities across Oregon and supporting survivors’ healing journeys.

At OAASIS, we know that people can heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse. This knowledge is based on scientific evidence related to trauma and resiliency, as well as the lived experiences of many survivors involved in our work. A survivor’s healing process often develops over the course of a lifetime and is often facilitated by professional support. For many people who were sexually abused as children, this support is found through Oregon’s domestic and sexual violence services programs and child abuse intervention centers.

For Oregonians who were sexually abused as children, the need for these holistic, trauma-informed services is great. National research indicates that 1 in 4 females and 1 in 6 males are sexually abused before age 18. Based on the most recent census, an estimated 813,899 Oregonians have been (or will be) sexually abused before age 18. If every survivor stood hand-in-hand (4 feet across), the line of survivors would extend approximately 154 miles—extending from Portland, through Salem and Eugene, and reaching almost all the way to Roseburg.

While many states have engaged in justice reinvestment processes, Oregon provided a national example by having counties allocate at least 10% of Justice Reinvestment funds to community-based nonprofit victim services, beginning in the 15-17 biennium. Over the last two years, this funding has provided Oregonians greater access to domestic and sexual violence services and child abuse intervention centers.

Oregon's strong network of community-based nonprofit victim services is not yet funded at the level where everyone who has experienced crime and violence is able to access support. Justice Reinvestment funding is important to support survivors' healing journeys and to implement prevention programs in communities across Oregon.

We hope you'll join us in supporting \$41.3 million for Justice Reinvestment in HB 5005. Thank you for your time and consideration.