



**Testimony in support of SB 608
Senate Committee on Housing
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
Jan 31, 2019**

Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Girod, 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 a statewide organization 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 people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma, and all relationships are based on respect, consent, and equity.

We are pleased to support SB 608, bringing more safety and stability to Oregonians who rent their homes. **SB 608 is important to us because housing stability is incredibly important to the health and well-being of children who are sexually abused and their safe, supportive family members.**

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.

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. But the healing process is difficult to begin or continue when a child’s living situation is in flux and a family is experiencing extreme stress trying to find a safe, affordable, suitable place to live.

SB 608 will ensure that tenants can only be evicted for cause and local communities can address the housing crisis in the way that works best for that community. **This smart legislation will provide more stability and greater safety to Oregon families, including families that need to focus on the health and safety of children who have been sexually abused—not on scrambling to find a new safe, affordable place to call home.**

We hope you’ll join us in supporting SB 608. Thank you for your time and consideration.