



**Testimony in support of HB 3178  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director  
March 12, 2019**

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Sanchez and Noble, 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 HB 3178, which will enable 1,220 more children each year to receive safe, trauma-informed medical assessments, forensic interviews, and opportunities for healing support.**

OAASIS’s work has taught us that people can heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse. This knowledge that people can heal is based on a scientific understanding of trauma and resiliency and the lived experiences of countless survivors. Time and again, we have learned from survivors that the response to child sexual abuse can be as impactful as the abuse itself. When the survivor is believed, heard, respected, given accurate information and trauma-informed support, and empowered to choose their own path toward health and healing, the survivor is better able to move from Post-Traumatic Stress to what neurobiologists call Post-Traumatic Growth.

**Survivors of child sexual abuse can live full, healthy, joyful lives. For child survivors whose sexual abuse is reported, Oregon’s Child Abuse Intervention Centers provide an important step towards safety, health, and healing.**

We hope you’ll join us in supporting HB 3178 and an additional \$6 million investment into Oregon’s Child Abuse Intervention Centers. Thank you for your time and consideration.