



March 13, 2019

Testimony in support of \$1M Investment in Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Human Services,

My name is Pamela Heisler. I am the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCAO)- a newly formed provisional chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. Our mission is to protect children and strengthen families. **I'm here today in support of an investment in the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study.**

PCAO, along with the 15 organizations listed below, support this investment because we have a dire need in our work for real data and we believe the Center for Child Abuse and Neglect is ready and prepared to collect this data in a careful and trauma informed way.

Supporting organizations include:

- AAUW- Oregon
- AG's Sexual Assault Task Force
- American Association of University Women- Oregon
- CAUSA
- Children First for Oregon
- Children's Institute
- Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)
- Dr. Beth Green, Portland State University
- Open Adoption & Family Services
- Oregon Abuse Advocates & Survivors in service (OAASIS)
- Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women
- Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
- Oregon CASA Network
- Oregon Foster Youth Connection
- Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers
- Oregon Primary Care Association

Our vision, like everyone's in this room, is that Oregon is a place where every child is safe from abuse and neglect. Right now, however, we know we do not have an accurate gauge for whether any efforts are truly successful in changing outcomes statewide. In the world of primary prevention, this drastically limits our ability to make the case for front-end investments in programs and services we know keep kids safe. We are forced to rely on moral outrage and the promise of future savings to make our case for the kinds of strategies that change social norms and behaviors on a large-scale. I'm confident that with a more accurate assessment of the real prevalence of abuse and neglect in our state, greater energy and resources will be dedicated to upstream efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this investment in the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study.

Sincerely,

Pamela Heisler
Executive Director

Board of Directors

- Harold Goldstein, **Chair**
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- Mickey Lansing, **Vice-Chair**
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- Mary Collard
Executive Director, CASA of Eastern Oregon
- Mary Ratliff
Project Director, Protect Our Children
- Ruth Taylor
Program Consultant

Executive Director

Pamela Heisler, MPA

Mission

To protect children and strengthen families.

Vision

Every child, regardless of race, class, culture, or geography, lives in a safe home in a supportive community.