



**Testimony in support of SB 5515**  
**Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**  
**Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director**  
**March 13, 2019**

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso, 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 the lifesaving work of the Crime Victims and Survivors Services Division of the Department of Justice, particularly the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) and Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Fund (CAMI).** ODSVS and CAMI-funded programs are vital resources to achieve safe, healthy communities across Oregon and support 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.

Most children who are sexually abused are harmed by someone they know and trust. The abuser could be a family member, friend, or trusted person in a position of power, like a teacher or coach. For many survivors of child sexual abuse, life is not safe enough and the abuse is not understood enough to disclose the abuse until the survivor is older. This is the experience of most of OAASIS’s members.

For these courageous adult survivors of child sexual abuse, Oregon's domestic and sexual violence services programs become a lifeline of safety and support. These community-based services help survivors find safety, stay safe, and rebuild their lives. ODSVS provides vital funding to Oregon's domestic and sexual violence services programs, but current funding meets only 25% of the most basic, emergency need. In 2017, over 8,000 requests for emergency shelter from violence couldn't be met because of a lack of funding. That's about one unmet request every hour. Of every day. Of the entire year. Survivors need Oregon to double down on its commitment to safety and support. **OAASIS advocates that ODSVS, the only general funding available to lifesaving sexual and domestic violence services, is increased by \$10 million.**

Some children are able to disclose the abuse; these courageous survivors can access comprehensive support through Oregon's child abuse intervention centers. Child abuse intervention centers are designed to minimize the trauma of children who have been abused by providing wrap-around resources and interventions in a child-focused environment. **OAASIS advocates that CAMI, vital funding for Oregon's child abuse intervention centers, is increased by \$6 million.**

We understand that Oregon is in a challenging budgetary situation and we do not envy the difficult decisions you have to make. We ask that you continue to support vulnerable Oregonians who have been abused so these courageous survivors can reclaim their resilience and strength. 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. ODSVS and CAMI are important to support survivors' healing journeys and to prevent further violence in communities across Oregon.

We hope you'll join us in supporting a \$10 million increase to ODSVS and a \$6 million increase to CAMI. Thank you for your time and consideration.