



**Testimony in support of HB 2657  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director  
March 22, 2019**

Chair Williamson, Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, 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.

**OAASIS is pleased to support HB 2657.** Oregon can prevent sexual violence. But only if we invest in helping Oregon’s youth to understand, identify, and engage in healthy relationships. **Oregonians need the Legislature to invest \$3 million in dedicated funding source** to ensure greater capacity for community-based non-profits, culturally specific, and tribal programs to implement violence prevention education in K-12 and other community settings.

**Healthy relationships are rooted in respect and consent.** Our current culture simultaneously promotes and punishes sexuality. Too often, our culture disregards the humanity of some people; utilizes shame to control behavior; and presents confusing and conflicting messages around sexual violence, ranging from “just get over it—that was the past” to “experiencing sexual violence means that your life is ruined forever.”

We know that our culture can have a healthier response to sexual violence—one that creates greater safety and increases healing. Our culture can value the humanity in every person; engage in grounded, age-appropriate conversations about healthy relationships; and acknowledge the harm done through sexual violence while promoting healing for survivors and the community.

Oregon’s families and communities deserve greater support to help children and young people understand consent and develop healthy relationships and boundaries. **HB 2657 will enable more Oregon youth, families, and communities prevent sexual violence and develop healthy**

**relationships.**

We all have a role in preventing sexual violence. I hope you'll join me in supporting HB 2657.