



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Support HB4112
Child Abuse Prevention, Detection, and Intervention
February 3, 2020
House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

HB4112 is a legislative priority for the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women
As partners of Child Advocacy Centers and preventionists across the state, the Alliance is supportive of HB4112 and the effort to invest in services that serve children and implementation of detection and primary prevention efforts to reduce the risks of child abuse and neglect.

HB4112 will provide Oregon with baseline data on the prevalence of child abuse and neglect. The Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study is a trauma-informed instrument initially piloted in Lane County by the Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect. The survey, which reflects on the experiences of youth in and outside of the education system, including home life, foster care, and the neighborhoods and communities that children live in, goes deep into the home life and environment of youth. The data will give us a better picture of what youth see and experience, with a focus on abuse and neglect prevalence rates – data that Oregon has not collected.

HB4112 will invest in prevention efforts that will reduce the risks of violence, abuse, and neglect. The Alliance has previously endorsed efforts to increase the Sexuality Education Specialist at the Oregon Department of Education. Increasing this position to full-time will allow ODE to more fully implement Erin's Law, effectively supporting primary prevention strategies that are critical to reducing rates of violence and abuse.

HB4112 will protect children. Child Advocacy Centers provide medical exams, forensic interviews and follow-up treatment for children who have experienced abuse and violence or who were a witness to a crime. Prosecutors, law enforcement, and caseworkers all depend on the services that CACs provide – but even more important, children who have access to Centers have better long-term outcomes. For these reasons, we urge your support of HB4112.

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