



**Testimony in support of HB 4132  
House Committee on Education  
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director  
February 3, 2020**

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, 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 4132, which will give Oregon more information about our students’ health and well-being.**

The Oregon Student Health Survey is an anonymous, voluntary survey given to students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The data collected help schools and communities better understand the challenges Oregon youth face and ways to support youth health and success in school and our communities.

OAASIS’s work has taught us that people can heal from trauma. 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 trauma, violence, and abuse can be as impactful as the trauma, violence, and 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.

HB 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill, will give Oregonians information we need to support the health, well-being, and success of Oregon youth.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting HB 4132. Thank you for your time and consideration.