



February 3, 2020

Testimony in support of HB 4112 for child abuse prevention & intervention

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Williams and 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 provisional chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. Our mission is to protect children and strengthen families. **I'm writing today in support of an investment in child abuse prevention and intervention, as outlined in HB 4112.**

Passage of HB 4112 would provide an additional \$3M for Child Advocacy Centers across the state, ensuring that victims of child abuse receive a timely and trauma informed response that paves the way for lifelong healing. It will also provide one full-time position at the Department of Education to fully implement Erin's Law in school districts across our state, so that every child K-12 has the information they need to identify, and a safe place to report, child abuse or neglect. Lastly, HB 4112 provides funding to launch the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study so that our state can have an accurate gauge of incidents of child abuse and neglect, rather than relying on moral outrage and the promise of future savings to make our case for the kinds of long-term strategies we know keep kids safe.

The prevention of child abuse and neglect is complex and so requires a host of programs and initiatives at all levels. HB 4112 recognizes this complexity and offers three investments to move Oregon forward in the field of prevention.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Pamela Heisler
Executive Director

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Mission

Strengthening families to prevent child maltreatment in all its forms.

Vision

All children live in safe homes and supportive communities, regardless of race, class, culture or geography.