



**Testimony in support of SB 755
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Co-Director
March 15, 2021**

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Co-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 SB 755, which improves the health and safety of Oregon communities by fully implementing the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act.

OAASIS’s work has taught us that people can heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse. 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 child sexual abuse can be as impactful as the 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.

But when survivors can’t access support, safety and healing can be far more difficult to achieve. Without support, survivors may try to numb the pain of sexual or physical abuse by self-medicating with drugs or alcohol. Funding the addiction recovery services as outlined in the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act through SB 755 will provide life-saving interventions to keep members of our community safe and help people struggling with addiction in their recovery journey.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting SB 755. Thank you for your time and consideration.