



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 10, 2021

TO: Representative Anna Williams
Chair of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Shannon Sivell, Director, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division

SUBJECT: HB 2826 – Funding for Children’s Advocacy Centers

This testimony is presented in support of HB 2826

Background:

Oregon’s Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) provide services critical to the effective response to child abuse. Unlike other nonprofit victim service providers, CACs’ services include provision of medical assessments, which require the expertise of highly qualified professionals including child forensic interviewers and physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants with ongoing, specialized training in responding to child abuse. To ensure the availability of these services for every child in the state who may need them, CACs must continuously seek funding from a variety of sources to supplement state funds provided through their local Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Teams (MDTs). As we improve the overall identification of and response to child abuse, the demand for these services increases. Additional funding would help ensure that children who may have been abused continue to have access to these essential services.

Concept:

This bill will create a dedicated source of funding for CACs across the state. Currently these organizations receive some limited state funding through the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) grant. That funding is budgeted by county MDTs. Statute requires each county MDT to "prioritize" funding to CACs in county MDT budgets, however, CAMI funds may also be, and often are, used for other MDT needs, including training and prosecution. HB 2826 will create a separate source of funding solely dedicated to CACs.

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