

Submitter: Carrie Rasmussen

On Behalf
Of: SafeSpace

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: SB5701

My name is Carrie Rasmussen and I am the District Attorney of Hood River County. I am writing today to speak in favor of the capital funding request for SafeSpace. This investment is urgently needed to give children who are experiencing abuse in the Columbia Gorge Region a place they can go for assessment and support. Our community is investing in SafeSpace to grow to meet the need, but we need the required funds to continue to support the children of our region. Before 2009 when we did not have a center, traumatized children were interviewed in police stations where suspects were interviewed. Now, children and families have a child-friendly place to go so that their words can be recorded and medical evaluations can be performed. This has resulted in hundreds of child abuse cases being resolved short of trial, which allows true healing to begin.