



January 03, 2024

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Human Services,

I write today to express support for Senator Knopp's legislative concept to strengthen Oregon's response to child abuse. As a national organization we are lending our support to this concept. It is critically important for the state of Oregon and the Oregon Legislature to do all they can to support children who are victims of abuse, neglect, and endangerment.

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) exists to help make a difference in the lives of children who are being impacted by their caregiver's substance misuse or addiction by bringing professionals and communities together to address the issue in unprecedented ways.

We support Senator Knopp's legislative concept because it helps in several ways.

- **Increasing the permanent funding.** We need to get more resources into the hands of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Oregon who are already doing great work.
- **Competitive grants.** Supporting underserved, rural, high-risk children with targeted resources to CACs.
- **A workgroup and study.** This will create space for feedback about what's working and what can be done to increase resources and services.

We thank you for your consideration of this concept and hope to see it move forward in the 2024 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Eric Nation  
Director of Training and Development  
National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children