



**Testimony in support of HB 2732
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Co-Director
February 1, 2023**

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, 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 HB 2732, investing \$6 million in Oregon’s Child Advocacy Centers. Child Advocacy Centers provide our youngest Oregonians a safe place to disclose abuse, neglect, and violence and access wraparound services to achieve safety and nurture well-being.

At OAASIS, we know that people can heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse. This knowledge is based on scientific evidence related to trauma and resiliency, as well as the lived experiences of many survivors involved in our work. A survivor’s healing process often develops over the course of a lifetime and is often facilitated by professional support. For many children who were sexually abused as children, this support is initially found through Oregon’s Child Advocacy Centers.

The need for these holistic, trauma-informed services is great. National research indicates that 1 in 4 females and 1 in 6 males are sexually abused before age 18. An estimated 813,899 Oregonians have been (or will be) sexually abused before age 18. If every survivor stood hand-in-hand (4 feet across), the line of survivors would extend approximately 154 miles—extending from Portland, through Salem and Eugene, and reaching almost all the way to Roseburg.

Passing HB 2732 and investing \$6 million into Child Advocacy Centers would allow community-based services that prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect to continue to effectively and professionally serve vulnerable children.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting HB 2732. Thank you for your time and consideration.