



**Juliette's House**  
CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION CENTER

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**SUPPORT HB 2732**

February 2, 2023

Submitted by Juliette's House Child Abuse Intervention Center

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallen, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony. I am requesting your support of HB 2732.

My name is Russel Mark. I am the President/CEO for Juliette's House a CAC serving Yamhill, Polk, and Tillamook Counties. In our 25-year history, we have cared for several thousand children and their caregivers impacted by child abuse and neglect, providing medical and forensic interviews, family support, and treatment. In addition, each year we educate well over 4000 children in schools and adults across sectors in ways to prevent abuse, understanding healthy-relationships and boundaries, as well as how to effectively respond to abuse if it is disclosed. The children we engage with are survivors of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, exposure to domestic violence and/or drug endangerment. When we cannot prevent abuse from happening, our primary responsibility at Juliette's House is to intervene as quickly as possible, help a child and family understand and communicate with us what has happened, provide a diagnosis, and provide mental health treatment to help them stay safe, have tools to heal and move forward with their lives.

As I stated earlier, I am requesting your support of HB 2732 to maintain the increased investment of \$6M in Children's Advocacy Centers made during the 2021 legislative session. Children's Advocacy Centers have been working with the Legislature to increase state funding, and we are really thankful that our \$6M funding request was included in the Christmas Tree bill last session. As you know, the Christmas Tree bill was created as a one-time funding allocation, and all of our CACs (including Juliette's House) continually report that our greatest need is highly specialized staff. In fact, nearly every CAC reported using the 2021 funding for increased staff, or increased hours for existing staff.

For example, one Center used the funding to hire a bilingual therapist - a longstanding need for every community. Additional uses included purchases of new medical equipment and facility repairs or expansions so that more kids could be seen.

We used our CACF funding to supplement some of our clinical services salaries and to hire new trauma-trained therapist – already this therapist will be seeing already over 100 unique clients (child and caregiver) a year, with substantive case management in our Trauma Services program.

CACs serve all children regardless of their family's ability to pay, but the current level of state support means many children endure a waitlist for services. Worse, children might not be seen by a CAC at all. Instead, they may be interviewed in police stations or emergency rooms by staff with no specialized training to assess children for child abuse, and without the team of multidisciplinary experts working together - which is a cornerstone of the CAC approach.

Passing HB 2732 will move us closer to an Oregon where all children have access to a team of experts who are dedicated to supporting them, stopping abuse, and beginning the process of healing. Please hold the progress you made to protect kids and continue the \$6M investment in CACs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell A. Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Russell A. Mark  
President/CEO

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