



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 2, 2023

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Andersen, and  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director  
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: HB 2732 Grants Children's Advocacy

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.

Oregon law (ORS 418.780) requires that all children have access to a skilled, competent and medically sound Medical Assessment completed at a CAC regardless of ability to pay, yet ongoing state funding makes up only 17% of CAC budgets. 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 the limited state funds.

Currently, CACs are only able to serve 55% of the children referred and have reported that the complexity and severity of the cases they see has increased significantly since covid restrictions have been lifted and children are coming into contact with mandatory reporters for the first time since the beginning of COVID. Now, more than ever, access to CAC professionals is crucial.

Recognizing this critical need, in 2021, the Legislature invested \$6 million in CACs. Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) is proud to administer these funds through grants to Oregon CACs.

One time funding, while helpful, poses challenges to meeting the greatest resource need of CACs, staff. On-going funding will allow for program planning, development and execution. HB 2732 will protect the vital and critical capacity that was realized with the Legislature's 2021 funding by granting a continuation of its \$6 million investment.

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