



1253 NW Highland St.  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
Telephone: 541-672-7001

Dear Ways & Means Committee members,

My name is David Adamson and I am the Treasurer for CASA of Douglas County and sit on the board of directors.

This year alone, 4,800 Oregon children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect will be served by one of 19 local nonprofits and on Tribal CASA program. Unfortunately, many children in need of this advocacy will be left waiting due to a lack of capacity in these programs. We are mandated by law to be appointed when the court determines a child to be in immediate threat of serious harm. However, our funding does not allow for enough paid staff to recruit, train, and support the army of volunteers it takes to do this work.

I'm asking that you continue to fund court-appointed special advocate programs in Oregon. The 2021 legislature passed HB 2738, allowing DAS to delegate fiscal and programmatic oversight of local programs to the Oregon CASA Network. This was also the first time in 15 years the legislature approved an increase in funding. We are asking for \$6.4 million to fund the next 24 months of court appointed advocacy for some of the most at risk children in the state.

For many children, their advocate remains the one constant in their otherwise chaotic life. Children with a CASA tend to perform better academically and behaviorally in school. They are also more likely to receive all court ordered services. Thanks to many dedicated volunteers, for every dollar of public funding we receive, CASA essentially puts more than \$2 worth of time and work back into the child welfare system.

Please allow us to continue our essential service to children and families. Thank you for your consideration.

*David Adamson*

David Adamson

Treasurer for CASA of Douglas County

**I** am for the child™

*Our mission is to provide children who have been abused or neglected and are now in foster care, with qualified, compassionate advocates who will fight for and protect children's fundamental right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.*