

**Emerson Levy**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 53



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 08, 2024

Chair Gelsler Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing today to share my full support of Senate Bill 1579. Senator Knopp's legislation to create the Children's Advocacy Center Fund is imperative to enhance our state's response to child abuse and improve services to its victims.

By appropriating moneys to support children's advocacy centers, regional children's advocacy centers, and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams, this fund will help strengthen our efforts to protect and support children who have experienced abuse.

The establishment of a one-time grant program administered by the Department of Human Services will expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers, enabling more children and families across our state to receive the assistance they need to heal and recover from the trauma of abuse.

Additionally, the bill establishes the Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams, which will audit Oregon's compliance with Karly's Law and identify barriers to accessing essential services. By reporting its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, this task force will play a crucial role in shaping future policy and ensuring that our state remains committed to providing comprehensive support to victims of child abuse.

The KIDS Center in Bend is an example of the important work of Children's Advocacy Centers. HB 1579 represents a significant opportunity to strengthen our state's response to child abuse and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Emerson Levy