



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Andersen, Vice Chair Wallan, and members of the committee,

My name is Bobby Levy. I represent most of Umatilla County and all of Union and Wallowa Counties.

I write in support of SB 1587 to grant certain immunities to children's advocacy centers, their employees, and designated agents, while also mandating accreditation for these centers by nationally recognized organizations. This vital legislation holds immense potential to safeguard the well-being of our children and amplify the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts.

Children's advocacy centers serve as sanctuaries for vulnerable youth who have endured unimaginable traumas. These centers are at the forefront of providing crucial services such as forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapy, and support to child victims of abuse. However, in fulfilling their noble mission, these centers and their dedicated staff face significant legal and logistical challenges.

Granting immunities to children's advocacy centers and their personnel is essential to ensure they can perform their duties without fear of undue legal repercussions. By providing protection from liability in good faith actions, this legislation encourages swift and decisive intervention in cases of suspected child abuse, enabling advocacy centers to focus on their paramount objective: advocating for and safeguarding the welfare of children.

Furthermore, the requirement for accreditation with nationally recognized organizations enhances the quality and reliability of services provided by children's advocacy centers. Accreditation ensures adherence to rigorous standards of care, professionalism, and ethical conduct. It instills public trust, fosters accountability, and elevates the credibility of these vital institutions.

Moreover, by declaring an emergency effective upon passage, this bill underscores the urgency of addressing the pressing needs of child victims of abuse. Every moment counts in safeguarding the innocence and well-being of our children, and this legislation expedites the implementation of crucial measures to protect them from harm.

In conclusion, I urge you to wholeheartedly support this bill. By granting immunities, mandating accreditation, and declaring an emergency, we affirm our commitment to shielding our most vulnerable citizens from harm and ensuring that children's advocacy centers can continue their invaluable work with unwavering dedication and effectiveness.

Best,

Bobby Levy, HD 58