

Submitter: Kimberly Dutton
On Behalf Of: on behalf of Support for CSL for Children's Advocacy
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello, my name is Kimberly Dutton and I am the Senior Programs Manager for the Amani Center, we are the Child Advocacy Center for Columbia County providing child forensic medical assessment and support services to child victims and their caregivers/families. We have also recently started providing support to Clatsop County through a linkage agreement with The Lighthouse for Kids, Clatsop County's Child Advocacy Center.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you about the request we submitted for Capital Funding for \$800,000. We have been serving our community for 25 years and our services have expanded to meet the needs of our growing community, we have reached a point where we are no longer able to meet the demand for services with our current space and want to plan for the future. In 2023 we were very generously gifted a piece of property along with the start of plans and guidance, that would allow us to construct a building that would become our permanent home. This would allow us to more than double our capacity to serve child victims and their caregivers/families in our community, it would allow us space to expand our mental health program and conduct prevention training. The location is in a much more private and serene space.

In 2024 it was announced that we had been selected to receive 1.023 million in federal congressionally directed spending for the project which was championed by Senators Wyden and Merkley. Unfortunately, when the federal government moved to the reconciliation process and did not pass the proposed federal budget, we lost out on that opportunity. We have strong community support, individual donors, businesses and community partners helping to contribute to the project financially and with in-kind donations of materials and services. We have multiple grant funders that are prepared to invest but require that we have a significant percentage of the total project funding secured before they will contribute. Unfortunately, the loss of federal funds puts us further from that goal and makes this ask for \$800,000 now more critical than ever, and would get us to our goals that would allow for Foundations to step in with additional funding.

This project is shovel ready, we have completed plans and submitted for building permit, and your support will allow for more efficient and effective support for children and their families.