



**Testimony in support of HB 3380
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
April 5, 2017**

Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

I am Kerry Naughton, Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates and Survivors in Service (OAASIS). We are building a movement that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma; all relationships are based on equity and respect; and all people who have been sexually abused are supported to heal.

OAASIS is pleased to support House Bill 3380. The Family Sentencing Alternative, passed in 2015 with bipartisan support, was modeled after a successful Washington program that provides parents intensive supervision and services instead of prison. Parents are held accountable while receiving support to strengthen bonds with their children and increase family stability. House Bill 3380 will strengthen the existing law to ensure that qualified parents are reunited with their families while receiving intensive supervision and community-based treatment.

OAASIS is a survivor-led organization, with thousands of supporters across Oregon. Most of our supporters are adults who were sexually abused as children or survivors' family members. We understand first-hand the impact that child sexual abuse has on survivors, families, and our communities.

Child sexual abuse deeply impacts a person, creating ripple effects that can flow throughout a lifetime. The emotional and psychological pain of child sexual abuse don't appear on x-rays like a broken bone, but the impact can be just as fracturing to a survivor's long-term health. Survivors can heal. The healing process often extends over a lifetime and is often facilitated by professional support.

When survivors are unable to access healing support in the community, the trauma of child sexual abuse can become overwhelming. There is a strong correlation between child sexual abuse and addiction, as survivors self-medicate to try to escape the pain. Addiction often leads to a whole host of consequences, often including incarceration.

Most women who are incarcerated have histories of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. This trauma needs to be addressed through programs that support people to heal from the trauma of abuse. House Bill 3380 and the Family Sentencing Alternative are key to help people heal and succeed in the community.

While the Family Sentencing Alternative has met some of its intended goals, gaps in the law unintentionally exclude parents who would otherwise be eligible for the program. House Bill 3380 updates the program to include pregnant women and ensures it is being used to divert parents safely from prison to community supervision, keeping families together and reducing Oregon's budget deficit.

We hope you'll join us in supporting House Bill 3380.