



Oregon Network of
Child Abuse
Intervention
Centers

February 4, 2019

Senate Committee on Education, Members

Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers
1827 NE 44th Ave., Suite 220
Portland, OR 97213

RE: Senate Bill 155

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs) is a collaborative network of 21 Centers dedicated to ensuring quality, comprehensive services for all of Oregon's children who have concerns of abuse and/or neglect. When abuse has been reported or is suspected, CAICs provide a safe place where children can receive medical exams, forensic interviews, trauma-informed therapy, family support, and prevention services—all from highly trained specialists who know what to look for, and the right questions to ask to ensure proper diagnosis, treatment, and that sound evidence is collected. In the most recent year, the majority of children accessing Centers were school-aged (37% ages 7-12; 24% ages 13-18).

Regarding SB 155, it is our position that any and all TSPC investigations relating to the possible or alleged abuse of children or inappropriate contact by school personnel with a child should be coordinated with the local County Multidisciplinary Team pursuant to ORS 418.747 and whenever possible, the interviewing of children should be done at or in coordination with the local CAIC (ORS 418.782, Community Assessment Center). All interviews of children should be done only by personnel who have been specially trained in the forensic interviewing of children (See Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Child Forensic Interviewing Guidelines, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/OIG-2018-final-1.pdf>). This is in order to minimize trauma for children, to reduce the number of investigative interviews children must endure, to secure the best possible information and evidence for the investigation, and to ensure the provision of follow up services for the child and family in order to reduce the long-term effects of trauma, and provide the necessary resources for healing and recovery.

We urge you to consider the specialties and roles of CAICs and Multidisciplinary Teams when considering SB 155. We hope to partner to ensure that SB 155, if passed, considers all information and has a lessened chance of devastating unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers