



Oregon Network of
Child Abuse
Intervention
Centers

February 28, 2019

Chair Gelser
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

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

RE: Senate Bill 415

Dear Chair Gelser 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.

We're here today to offer our support of SB 415, which would add school board members and public charter governing board members to the list of mandatory reporters in Oregon. Anecdotally, we know that child abuse is underreported, and that expert intervention can help children heal. It is for this reason that we hope all citizens will have the knowledge and confidence to report when they have concerns about the wellbeing of a child. Our Centers work hard to serve kids, and also to raise awareness of abuse and give parents and children tools to protect themselves and their families. Adding these people as mandatory reporters will be one additional resource and advocate working to ensure kids can grow up healthy and safe. We hope you will support SB 415.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers