Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Statement in Support of HB 3179
House Human Services and Housing Committee
March 13th, 2019

The Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (Alliance) is a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Since 1999, the Alliance has worked to improve policy and legislation impacting survivors and the service providers who assist them.

The Alliance submits this statement in support of HB 3179 for the following reasons:

- The Alliance has long stood for the principles of the prevention of and protection against abuse. The Alliance supported passage of the Healthy Teen Relationship Act, passed in 2012, which established violence prevention standards in schools, and has prioritized 2019 HB 2657 to help fund violence prevention work.
- HB 3179 is consistent with the Alliance's principles of prevention and protection, and will provide a reliable and effective means of better tracking and understanding the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Oregon.
- Research indicates that many instances of violence or neglect go un-detected by formal system responders. In order to truly understand the scope of this issue, we must develop better ways for victims and survivors to come forward to reflect their experiences.
- More accurate data will help us to develop more effective prevention and protection policies.

HB 3179 was developed by the University of Oregon Center for Abuse and Neglect, after several years of studying the best-practice ways of measuring child-abuse rates. The bill was developed after implementing a successful pilot project to test results. The next step for Oregon is to take this successful pilot statewide, to measure incidence and need for all of Oregon's youth. Passage of HB 3179 will help provide better information to inform effective policy in Oregon, and for all of the above reasons, the Alliance urges a "yes" vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

| SYBIL HEBB – OREGON LAW CENTER – 503.936.8959 –SHEBB@OREGONLAWCENTER.ORG |
| KERRY NAUGHTON – OAASIS – 503.765.1128– KERRYOAASIS@GMAIL.COM |
| NIKI TERZIEFF – LEADING EDGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS – 503.480.9771 – NIKI@LEADINGEDGEPUBLICAFFAIRS.COM |
| MICHELE ROLAND-SCHWARTZ – OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE – 503-990-6541 – MICHELE@OREGONSATF.ORG |