



**Testimony in support of HB 3179  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director  
March 12, 2019**

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Sanchez and Noble, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates & Survivors in Service (OAASIS). OAASIS is a statewide organization that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. Our base is comprised of thousands of Oregonians—people who were sexually abused as children, survivors’ family members and loved ones, and community members who care about the safety, health, and well-being of survivors of child sexual abuse. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma, and all relationships are based on respect, consent, and equity.

**We are pleased to support HB 3179, which will enable Oregon to better track and understand the prevalence of child abuse.** With this increased knowledge, Oregon policymakers will be better able to shape structures to more effectively prevent, respond to, and help heal child abuse.

With the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study (OCAPS), Oregon will become the first state to develop an effective way to collect prevalence data to more accurately reflect the problem of child abuse and neglect. Currently, policy makers have to rely on reported incidents of abuse and neglect. But research indicates that reporting rates reflect a fraction of the overall problem. The experiences of survivors engaged with OAASIS reflects this: the majority of survivors never reported the sexual abuse to authorities. But survivors say they would have felt empowered to talk about their experiences honestly in a safe, trauma-informed survey.

In order for Oregon to more effectively address child abuse and neglect, we need better information. OCAPS is a scientifically-sound, successfully-piloted measurement strategy that will get Oregon the information we need.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting HB 3179. Thank you for your time and consideration.