



Oregon Network of  
Child Abuse  
Intervention  
Centers

March 25, 2019

Chair Wagner  
Vice-Chair Thomsen  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Members

RE: Senate Bill 960

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).

We write today to express our support for SB 960, particularly, the language on Page 7, lines 27-34 which state that for cases of sexual conduct that include sexual abuse, investigations must be done concurrently with law enforcement and DHS, based upon the protocols and procedures of the county multidisciplinary child abuse team that has jurisdiction over the report. Importantly, this language is also included in the -1 amendment.

Several weeks ago, the Network testified with some concerns on SB 155. Largely, we were concerned that without further clarification and proper protocols, children who had been victimized might be subject to multiple interviews by lesser-qualified interviewers. Of course, we know that this would lead to increased trauma and potentially lower quality information and/or evidence collected. Alternatively, when children who have been abused are seen at a local Child Abuse Intervention Center, they receive access to the most highly specialized medical providers and forensic interviewers, and they (and their families) also have access to follow up wraparound services. We believe that the language in SB 960 and the -1 amendment addresses this concern, and we are very thankful to Chair Wagner, Senators Roblan and Gelser, and the other legislators who convened stakeholders to find this language.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones  
Executive Director  
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers