



Oregon Network of
Child Abuse
Intervention
Centers

April 18, 2019

Chair Gelser
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Service

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

RE: House Bill 2227

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard, 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 writing today to offer our support of HB 2227, which would add animal control officers to the list of mandatory reporters in Oregon. The children we serve often experience abuse alongside other household stressors such as interpersonal violence, and in some cases animal maltreatment. In 2008 The American Humane, The Humane Society of the US, the American Bar Association, and Action for Child Protection published, "A Common Bond: Maltreated Children and Animals in the Home," which recommended that reporting and cross-reporting procedures be specified in law. We are in support of implementing this nationally-based recommendation 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 animal control officers 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 HB 2227.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers