



**Testimony in support of HB 4133
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
February 3, 2020**

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Williams, 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 4133, which will give more children and families the tools and support needed to get safe and stay safe.

OAASIS’s work has taught us that people can heal from the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. This knowledge that people can heal is based on a scientific understanding of trauma and resiliency and the lived experiences of countless survivors. Time and again, we have learned from survivors that the response to abuse can be as impactful as the abuse itself. When the survivor is believed, heard, respected, given accurate information and trauma-informed support, and empowered to choose their own path toward health and healing, the survivor is better able to move from Post-Traumatic Stress to what neurobiologists call Post-Traumatic Growth.

An abusive relationship creates trauma. A safe, supportive relationship creates healing. Co-located advocates at DHS provide survivors and their children individualized expert assistance to access safety and rebuild their lives. Co-located advocates help more children stay with their non-offending parent.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting HB 4133. Thank you for your time and consideration.