



## Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

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May 6, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee

From: Rosemary Brewer, Executive Director, Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

RE: Support for Washington County Family Peace Center project (SB 5534)

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for the Washington County Family Peace Center project.

This project seeks to establish a 20,000+ square foot facility for Washington County children and families impacted by child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. This facility would provide medical treatment, therapy, family support and prevention services to address trauma in a collaborative, proactive way while promoting the health and safety of our community.

Co-locating services for both child abuse and domestic violence addresses an urgent need in Washington County. Child abuse and domestic violence are widespread and cause long-lasting social and economic harm, not only to the victims individually but also to the community as a whole. Additionally, this type of trauma often has a disproportionate impact on those who are financially vulnerable or historically marginalized. COVID-19 has exacerbated these challenges as incidents of abuse have increased, while access to help and resources has decreased.

As the only nonprofit organization providing free legal representation to crime victims throughout the state, the attorneys at the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center have seen firsthand the trauma and pain children who have been abused face. Without adequate treatment, support, and therapy by well-trained professionals, the adverse effects of that abuse can be felt for decades.

I urge your support for the Washington County Family Peace Center project. This investment in the most vulnerable members of our community will not only to promote the health and safety of children and families today, but the well-being of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosemary W. Brewer  
Executive Director