

# Support hb2826

## WHY?

When kids are unable to access a **Children's Advocacy Center** for child abuse assessment, DHS caseworkers are forced to make placement decisions without the necessary information.

That means unnecessary family separation, or kids left in dangerous situations.

## Fund Children's Advocacy Centers

Children's Advocacy Centers have never been adequately funded – and the problem is worse since COVID-19.

- Children's advocacy centers provide medical exams, forensic interviews and follow-up treatment to kids who have been victimized, or who were witness to a crime.
- Prosecutors, law enforcement, and DHS caseworkers all depend on the statutorily mandated and coordinated services our over 20 CACs provide statewide.
- When kids can't get in at a CAC, they might be sent to an emergency room instead – to receive more expensive, less specialized care.

State funding for CACs is only at 18%. HB 2826 increases funding by \$6M – up to 28%, to increase access for kids.

- Between January and November 2020, only 55% of children that were referred to a CAC were then seen at the CAC.\*
- 45% of the children referred to these CACS were not seen after referral at their local CAC, often due to lack of capacity. In this time period 2,529 kids were referred, and then not seen.
- Contact Sabrina Riggs for more info: [sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com](mailto:sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com)  
503-990-2484



# YES on HB 2826



The response a child receives after disclosing abuse can change the trajectory of their life. The below partners recognize this, and support increased funding and access to Children's Advocacy Centers.



Contact Sabrina Riggs: [sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com](mailto:sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com) | 503-990-2484