



**Testimony in support of SB 766
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Co-Director
May 13, 2021**

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Co-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 SB 766, which will provide important technical fixes to Oregon’s Sexual Abuse Protective Orders (SAPOs).

National research indicates that one in four girls and one in six boys will experience sexual violence before age 18. Data also indicate that sexual violence is one of the most under-reported crimes in the country. SAPOs provide survivors of sexual violence who would not otherwise be eligible for an order or protection access to vital safety measures.

OAASIS’s work has taught us that people can heal from the trauma of 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 trauma, violence, and abuse can be as impactful as the trauma, violence, and 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.

SB 766 will make two critical technical fixes to the SAPO statute, ensuring the privacy and safety of sexual assault victims are upheld, removing: 1) the current risk of releasing personally-identifying information of minors, and 2) current procedures that may publicly release the survivor’s assault history when service on SAPO respondent is completed by an alternative method. These fixes are important ways to support survivors’ safety and healing journeys.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting SB 766. Thank you for your time and consideration.