



**Testimony in support of SB 48A with Dash 5 Amendments
Senate Rules Committee
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Co-Director
May 27, 2021**

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, 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.

OAASIS is pleased to support the Dash 5 Amendments to SB 48A. These amendments ensure that victim and survivor input, notification, and safety considerations are incorporated into the bill’s needed reforms to the bail system.

OAASIS is 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 realize we have a long way to go to achieve this future. Our current culture too often disregards the humanity of some people (including victims and offenders); utilizes shame to control behavior; does not know how to talk about or engage around sex and sexuality in a healthy and respectful way; and presents confusing and conflicting messages around child sexual abuse, ranging from “just get over it—that was the past” to “experiencing child sexual abuse means that your life is ruined forever.” We know that our culture can have a healthier response to child sexual abuse—one that creates greater safety and increases healing. Our culture can value the humanity in every person; engage in healthy conversations and interactions around sex and sexuality; and honor the harm done through child sexual abuse while promoting healing for survivors and the community. This is the culture that OAASIS is creating.

Dismantling racist beliefs, practices, and structures is central to our work to prevent and respond to sexual violence. Systemic racism in the justice system impacts victims as well as defendants. SB 48A-5 creates the foundation for a balanced approach to reform by removing mandatory minimum bail amounts while establishing standards for victim and survivor notification, input, and safety considerations. The bill also supports statewide consistency around release decisions in counties across the state, through guidance from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with input from a criminal justice advisory committee. These changes will help address longstanding structural racism that can impact BIPOC people, families, and communities long after a person’s arrest.

The Dash 5 Amendments to SB 48A enhance our public safety. We hope you'll join us in supporting SB 48A-5.