



## Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

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**Support for HB 4111  
Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study (OCAPS)  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
House Committee on Human Services**

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

The Alliance, along with the Oregon Law Center, the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force is pleased to offer joint support for HB 4111, which would direct the University of Oregon to conduct a study on the prevalence of child abuse in Oregon.

*The Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study*, otherwise known as *OCAPS*, is a scientifically sound and piloted measurement strategy from the University of Oregon's Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect (CPAN). *OCAPS* will more accurately determine rates of child abuse and neglect in Oregon by directly surveying a randomized sample of youth 16 and over in schools across the state.

*OCAPS* will allow us to capture vital information, producing a baseline from which we can have a better understanding of the breadth of experiences that youth are having in the various aspects of their lives – not just at school. *OCAPS* will assist us in knowing what funding programs work and where to put the dollars based on where the biggest problems lie. *OCAPS* compliments awareness and intervention efforts by moving us toward primary prevention of violence and abuse.

We appreciate that CPAN has built in several key designs to support equitable access to the survey, in an effort to ensure the data reflects a broad representation of youth across Oregon. These strategies include, but are not limited to:

- The OCAPS sampling is designed to be a representative cross-sector of Oregon youth, including urban, rural, and frontier schools. This 'stratified random sample' is an effective strategy to ensure this kind of representation. This, though, does not include youth who do not attend public school. We are grateful that CPAN has a provisional plan to oversample unhoused and non-school attending youth.

- OCAPS will ask several questions regarding identity and also conventional demographics, e.g., income, urban/rural/frontier, age. With regard to identity, OCAPS will ask questions about gender-identity, racial and ethnic identity, and sexual orientation.
- The survey is completed on a security screen-protected i-pad made available to students, and is also available as an audio version as a way of increasing accessibility for students with varying learning styles.
- HB4111 will support language translation of the survey to increase accessibility.

Passage of HB4111 will provide valuable data to better inform community-based violence and abuse prevention efforts provided by the network of sexual and domestic violence programs in Oregon, pointing us in the appropriate direction for future investments and solutions.

HB4111 is a sound investment and supports a future where youth are free from violence and abuse. For this reason we urge your support.