



January 03, 2024

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Human Services,

I write today to express support for Senator Knopp's legislative concept to strengthen Oregon's response to child abuse. As a national organization we are lending our support to this concept. It is critically important for the state of Oregon and the Oregon Legislature to do all they can to support children who are victims of abuse, neglect, and endangerment.

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) exists to help make a difference in the lives of children who are being impacted by their caregiver's substance misuse or addiction by bringing professionals and communities together to address the issue in unprecedented ways.

We support Senator Knopp's legislative concept because it helps in several ways.

- **Increasing the permanent funding.** We need to get more resources into the hands of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Oregon who are already doing great work.
- **Competitive grants.** Supporting underserved, rural, high-risk children with targeted resources to CACs.
- **A workgroup and study.** This will create space for feedback about what's working and what can be done to increase resources and services.

We thank you for your consideration of this concept and hope to see it move forward in the 2024 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Eric Nation  
Director of Training and Development  
National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

FROM THE DESK OF  
The Honorable Peter Courtney

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Robinson, members of the committee,

I regret that I cannot be there in person with you, but I write in full support SB 1579 from Senator Knopp and thirty-three additional sponsors to date.

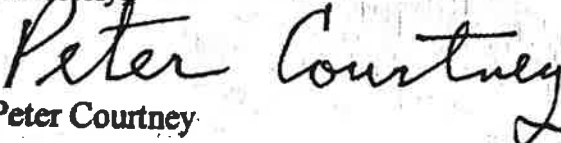
I have often said that the only thing wrong with kids is adults. They do not ask to be abused, mistreated, or neglected. They only seek love and protection. I know all of us are deeply saddened to know and hear of abuse of children anywhere and everywhere it occurs.

It is our job as the Oregon Legislature to protect the vulnerable everywhere we can. When we cannot, we must do everything in our power to provide support and healing.

Kids not only deserve more services, but they need them. I believe SB 1579 is a step in the right direction to providing for the kids of Oregon.

Thank you for taking this legislation seriously and I hope you will support it.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Courtney

**Emerson Levy**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 53



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 08, 2024

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing today to share my full support of Senate Bill 1579. Senator Knopp's legislation to create the Children's Advocacy Center Fund is imperative to enhance our state's response to child abuse and improve services to its victims.

By appropriating moneys to support children's advocacy centers, regional children's advocacy centers, and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams, this fund will help strengthen our efforts to protect and support children who have experienced abuse.

The establishment of a one-time grant program administered by the Department of Human Services will expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers, enabling more children and families across our state to receive the assistance they need to heal and recover from the trauma of abuse.

Additionally, the bill establishes the Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams, which will audit Oregon's compliance with Karly's Law and identify barriers to accessing essential services. By reporting its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, this task force will play a crucial role in shaping future policy and ensuring that our state remains committed to providing comprehensive support to victims of child abuse.

The KIDS Center in Bend is an example of the important work of Children's Advocacy Centers. HB 1579 represents a significant opportunity to strengthen our state's response to child abuse and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Emerson Levy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Levy'.