



**TO: Chair Rep. Lisa Reynolds
Vice Chair Rep. Hoa Nguyen
Vice Chair Anna Scharf
Members of In the Human Services Committee**

**FR: Amanda Dalton
Oregon District Attorneys Association**

RE: HB 4086 – Neutral with -1 Amendment

February 12, 2024

Chair Reynolds and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and feedback regarding HB 4086 and the -1 Amendment. We have appreciated the opportunity to meet with DHS over the last couple of weeks and learn more about their objective for the base bill. We shared our concerns and are appreciative that DHS has agreed that the conversation will benefit from additional time and discussion, as reflected in -1 Amendment.

The -1 Amendment seeks to establish the framework for two committee studies that will provide recommendations regarding the scope of child abuse investigations conducted by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the statewide response to children exhibiting problematic sexual behaviors.

ODAA is committed to the safety of children first, so we welcome the opportunity to be a part of this ongoing and important conversation. Any change in the definition and scope of responsibility regarding ODHS involvement in child abuse investigations would result in a significant shift from current policy and could create unintended consequences for the safety of children in Oregon, and developing strategies to help children with problematic sexual behavior is an issue in need of a solution as well.

We look forward to the complicated discussion in the interim and hard work toward possible solutions.