

March 5, 2024

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, Members of the Capital Construction Committee,

Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) is the statewide network of Children's Advocacy Centers. Our 24 members serve all 36 counties as the entities providing child abuse medical exams, forensic interviews, family support, and follow-up treatment services when there is a question of child abuse.

OCAS is incredibly grateful to Sen. Knopp for his long-standing commitment to and support of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Oregon, and for all of his efforts on SB 1579 this Session.

Oregon Child Abuse Solutions wholeheartedly supports SB 1579 as amended by the -A15 amendments, recognizing their critical role in bolstering CACs and fostering the statewide goal of accreditation, a goal that aligns closely with OCAS's mission.

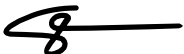
Under the -A15 grants, half of the \$7M available will be equitably distributed among all 24 CACs, a move we believe significantly advances the goal of statewide equity. Already, our members have identified pressing needs such as enhanced access to mental and behavioral health treatment opportunities, with some CACs already providing these services onsite while others work to establish similar programs.

The remaining half of the funding will be accessible through a competitive grant process, with a total cap on this funding (competitive and noncompetitive sources) set at \$300K for each CAC. The competitive grants will be prioritized to CACs that are accredited or working towards accreditation through the National Children's Alliance. OCAS supports the goal of statewide accreditation and appreciates that the competitive grant dollars may be used towards accreditation fees, staff time, and other costs associated with the accreditation process.

We commend and applaud Senator Knopp for fostering thoughtful bipartisan, bicameral discussions on this bill and for his unwavering support for Children's Advocacy Centers and the children they serve.

Respectfully, OCAS urges the Committee on Capital Construction to adopt the -A15 amendments and advance this bill as amended.

Thank you,



Shelly Smith, Executive Director  
Oregon Child Abuse Solutions