

Submitter: Nancy Leedy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

I have served as a CASA in Clackamas County for 17 years and have seen the impact CASAs can have in the lives of children effected by abuse or neglect. While caseworkers have 20 to 30 cases to oversee, a CASA has only one to three cases. A CASA, therefore, has more time to develop knowledge about and relationships with children and their families and is uniquely able to advocate for educational, medical, social or mental health services. CASAs also offers judges a community based assessment of the family and the ways in which ODHS may or may not be meeting the needs of the children. When a child is served by a CASA, they have a greater chance of receiving appropriate and timely services to assist them in recovery and prepare them for a safe and healthy future.