

**To:** Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson  
Members of the Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee  
**From:** Shelly Smith, Executive Director, Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS)  
**Date:** March 11, 2025  
**RE: Support SB 1013**

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Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) is the statewide network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). There are 24 children's advocacy centers in Oregon serving all 36 counties. The mission of OCAS is to elevate Oregon's child abuse prevention and response by strengthening children's advocacy centers, training first responders, and building public support to ensure children – in all Oregon communities – receive quality, timely, and healing-centered care.

**All 24 Oregon Children's Advocacy Centers, including Liberty House, are facing a significant funding cliff that threatens children's access to the critical services that CACs provide.** Oregon Child Abuse Solutions is supporting several measures and a Policy Option Package that will stabilize funding for Children's Advocacy Centers, and OCAS supports SB 1013:

- **HB 3196- Backfilling Federal Cuts:** Children's Advocacy Centers and other victims services providers receive federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Following the close of the 2024 Session, Oregon was alerted that this federal funding is being reduced by 42%. Projected funding losses range from \$10,000 to \$498,000 per CAC, with an average loss of \$122,794.
  - HB 3196 (2025) provides \$18.5M in one-time dollars to backfill the cuts to the current grantees of the VOCA program, and provides \$3M for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Children's Advocacy Centers, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs, Campus Sexual Assault Programs, and District Attorney Victims Assistance Programs are all current grantees of the VOCA program and are facing 42% cuts.
- **DOJ POP #327: Stabilizing state dollars:** The 2021 and 2023 Legislatures allocated \$6M in funding to Children's Advocacy Centers to increase their capacity to serve more children. This funding was successful in increasing capacity, with most CACs using the funds to hire new staff. DOJ POP #327 ensures that this funding, as well as similar funding for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs continues at Current Service Levels so that these critical staff and increased capacity can be maintained.
- **HB 3195- Ensuring already-allocated state dollars are not left on the table:** The 2024 Legislature allocated funding to Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) through SB 1579 (2024). The 2024 bill included two pots of funding, the first was distributed evenly amongst all Children's Advocacy Centers, and the second included some additional criteria-including a requirement that CACs apply for accreditation by June 2025. The 2024 bill also capped the total amount that CACs are able to receive at \$300k/each. There is currently ~\$120K of unallocated funding from SB 1579 (2024). In order to ensure that all funds are spent down, HB 3195 simply removes the \$300k cap that SB 1579 (2024) put in place, and gives the ODOJ an extra 3 months to allocate the leftover funding to another Children's Advocacy Center that fulfills the accreditation criteria.

- **SB 1013- Bridge Funding for Liberty House:** Liberty House recently expanded into North Marion County to better serve the region's needs. SB 1013 provides essential bridge funding to support the transition from launch to full operational status at the new Woodburn location, ensuring access to services for underserved rural communities.

Children's Advocacy Centers are at a critical juncture. Without funding from the Legislature to backfill cuts to federal funding (HB 3196) and Continued Service Level of existing state dollars (DOJ POP #327), we will see reduced staffing, increased wait times, fewer children receiving critical services, and delays in child abuse investigations. **We cannot overstate the urgency of the above funding requests.**