**To: Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Wallan and Chotzen and
Members of the House Judiciary Committee**

From: Russell Mark

Co-Chair Oregon Child Abuse Solutions Education and Awareness Committee

Representing: Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS)

Date: March 26, 2025

RE: Support for HB 3582

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Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) is the statewide network of Children's Advocacy Centers. There are 24 children's advocacy centers in Oregon serving all 36 counties. We write to express our support of HB 3582.

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.

In addition to providing child abuse medical exams and forensic interviews to assess if abuse has occurred or not, Oregon Child Abuse solutions supports children who have been victimized by child abuse through specialized mental health and counseling programs.

According to national statistics, one in seven children will experience some form of abuse in their lifetime. Abuse affects children across all geographic, social, cultural, and economic boundaries. To address this critical issue, Oregon's Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) network provides critical leadership and services in communities across Oregon. These centers offer safe, professional, and welcoming spaces where children can disclose their experiences and receive trauma-informed services designed to help them heal and thrive. But, we know that healing is often a life-long endeavor, and we appreciate that HB 3582 removes the statute of limitations for civil claims based on sexual assault and child sexual abuse to allow victims to seek justice on the timeline that is appropriate for them.

We thank Rep. Hartman for her constant championship of victims, and urge the committee to advance HB 3582.

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