

Submitter: Sarah Kester
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3195

My name is Sarah Kester, and I'm writing today in strong support of HB 3195.

As someone who has seen firsthand the critical role Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) play in helping children and families navigate the unimaginable, I know how vital it is that these centers are fully resourced. CACs are often the first safe place a child encounters after experiencing abuse. They offer not only trauma-informed care and forensic services but also a compassionate, coordinated response that brings healing into reach.

HB 3195 makes much-needed changes by removing arbitrary funding caps and ensuring that all CACs across Oregon receive a baseline of support. It also smartly invests in expansion, accreditation, and medical partnerships—steps that will help elevate the quality and reach of services statewide.

But I urge the legislature to go further.

The needs of children facing abuse do not end with a single grant cycle. Healing takes time. Prevention requires sustained effort. And trust is built through consistent, long-term support. A one-time grant, no matter how generous, will not meet the full depth or duration of what these centers are asked to carry.

If we truly believe in protecting Oregon's children, we must treat this not as a one-time gesture, but as the beginning of a deeper, ongoing commitment.

Thank you for your time and for considering HB 3195. I respectfully ask for your yes vote—and your continued investment in this life-saving work.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kester
Keizer, Oregon