

Submitter: Jared Meyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5701

Dear Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction -

I am writing in strong support of ABC House's request to expand its facility to include a dedicated, trauma informed grand jury room for child victims of abuse.

When I first learned about the work being done at ABC House, I was heartbroken by the unimaginable trauma so many children in our community endure. I was equally moved by the extraordinary compassion and skill of the staff who stand beside them.

ABC House is a vital resource for children and families in Linn and Benton Counties, providing forensic interviews, medical assessments, advocacy, and coordinated investigative services. Despite the importance of this work, the current facility does not have a grand jury space designed specifically for the needs of traumatized children. As a result, some young victims must participate in legal proceedings in environments that can increase stress and risk retraumatization.

A purpose-built, trauma-informed grand jury room would allow children to engage in the justice process safely and comfortably, support the effectiveness of multidisciplinary teams, and reflect Oregon's commitment to child-centered justice. This expansion is a necessary investment that will improve outcomes and protect the well being of vulnerable children.

I respectfully urge your full support for ABC House's request within SB 5701. Thank you for your time, service, and dedication to Oregon's children.

Respectfully,  
Jared Meyer