



**Testimony in support of HB 3078
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
April 12, 2017**

Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

I am Kerry Naughton, Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates and Survivors in Service (OASIS). We are building a movement that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma; all relationships are based on equity and respect; and all people who have been sexually abused are supported to heal.

OASIS is pleased to support the Safety and Savings Act (HB 3078).

Oregon is facing a \$1.7 billion deficit; opening a new women's prison would cost an additional \$17.5 million every biennium at a time when we face cuts to addiction treatment programs, mental health treatment, victim services, and support for working families and families trying to find work. Housing people in prison for drug and property crimes for excessively long times undermines our ability to invest in these areas we know will keep people out of prison and enhance community safety.

The Safety and Savings Act would mean cost-savings, community-based services, addiction treatment, victim services, and increased family stability. It will not only avert the need for a second prison for women, it will help eliminate the hazardous practice of relying on temporary and emergency beds in Oregon's prisons.

OASIS is a survivor-led organization, with thousands of supporters across Oregon. Most of our supporters are adults who were sexually abused as children or survivors' family members. We understand first-hand the impact that child sexual abuse has on survivors, families, and our communities.

Child sexual abuse deeply impacts a person, creating ripple effects that can flow throughout a lifetime. When survivors are unable to access healing support in the community, the trauma of child sexual abuse can become overwhelming. There is a strong correlation between child sexual abuse and addiction, as survivors self-medicate to try to escape the pain. Most women who are incarcerated have histories of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. This trauma needs to be addressed through programs that support people to heal from the trauma of abuse.

The Safety and Savings Act means safer, stronger communities. It is key to help people heal and succeed in the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you'll join us in supporting House Bill 3078.