



# SENATOR BILL HANSELL SENATOR SARA GELSER BLOUIN PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Oregon Senate Votes for Common Sense Protections for Children’s Advocacy Centers

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Oregon Senate passed [SB 1587](#), a bipartisan bill carried by **Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena)** and **Senator Sara Gelsler Blouin (D-Corvallis)**. SB 1587 gives Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) liability protections they currently lack.

Children’s Advocacy Centers are entities that provide child abuse medical exams and forensic interviews when there is a question of child abuse. There are 24 CACs serving all 36 counties in Oregon. CACs work within the multidisciplinary team process, in close collaboration with district attorneys, law enforcement, DHS, and schools. All these entities have a level of liability protections – except for children’s advocacy centers. SB 1587 solves this disparity with a very narrow and tailored approach.

“This bill provides important assurances to CACs and their insurance providers. Since there are no protections in place today, we unfortunately see baseless claims filed which result in CACs being dropped by their carriers, carriers raising premiums to the point that coverage is inaccessible, and negative impacts on access to services in our communities, especially for smaller CACs. CACs are supported by state dollars and provide statutorily mandated services. They deserve liability protections afforded to all other members of the child abuse response chain,” said **Senator Hansell**, who introduced the measure.

“Child Abuse Advocacy Centers are critical partners in child safety. Their work gives even the youngest children a voice when they have been harmed and provides a path forward towards healing. This very narrowly crafted bill provides protections critical to ensuring this essential work continues,” said **Senator Gelsler Blouin**, co-chief sponsor of SB 1587.

SB 1587 *excludes* protections for:

- Medical malpractice
- Reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct
- Gross negligence
- Abuse or neglect of the child

The bill heads to the House for consideration.

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