



Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Adebimpe Adewusi and I'm a child abuse pediatrician and medical director at CARES Northwest in Portland, OR. We are a child advocacy center for both Washington and Multnomah County. I'm writing this letter in support of the Washington County Family Peace Center. As the first BIPOC person in 34 years in a core leadership position at CARES NW, I am well aware that child abuse disproportionately impacts BIPOC children and this impact has been compounded by the COVID pandemic which has widened the gap disproportionately for our BIPOC communities. Access to a center that would provide medical examinations and interviews by individuals who are experts in the area of child abuse would be extremely helpful especially in such communities where access to transportation may be an issue. Moreover, research and clinical practice shows that the cooccurrence of multiple forms of child abuse and domestic violence is well known; thus, families potentially being able to have access to both resources in one building is vital. That is why CARES Northwest has been working closely with Washington County community leaders for the past two years to make the vision of the Washington County Family Peace Center a reality. We believe the establishment of a center in Washington County, for Washington County children and families, will enhance access to comprehensive child abuse and domestic violence services, and promote the short and long-term emotional and physical safety of the communities we serve. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Adebimpe Adewusi MD, FAAP