

**Oregonian  
Portland, OR  
01/18/05**

**Invest more in children 50.33**

It was disappointing to find that fewer than half of child abuse complaints in Oregon are investigated ("Many abuse reports not probed," Jan. 11).

The governor's spokeswoman claims that this is due to "budget reality."

Is this the message we want to send to the children of Oregon, that we aren't willing to invest money to prevent this increasing problem?

As a child of Oregon, it saddens me to know that there are children who suffer abuse because our state is not willing to spend the money.

A D+ on Children First for Oregon's "annual report card of health and well-being" is not acceptable.

The governor should re-evaluate the state's budget to reflect the needs of the children. We are Oregon's future.

**RYAN CLARK**  
*Newberg*