

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Tomei  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Carter

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass

Vote: 22 – 0 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 29, 2009

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates a 21-member Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare Foster Care to study the reasons for, and develop a plan to reduce, the disproportionality of children of certain racial and ethnic backgrounds in the child welfare foster care system compared to the number of those children in the general population. The task force is required to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to human services no later than October 1, 2010. The Department of Human Services is to provide staff support to the task force. The task force sunsets on the date of the next regular biennial legislative session convenes. Declares emergency, takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Expected availability of Other Funds from non-profit Casey Family Programs grant
- Fiscal impact to be included in the Department of Human Services 2009-11 budget bill (SB 5529)

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Children, Adults and Families Division (CAF) of the Department of Human Services provides essential services to meet basic and urgent needs of Oregon's vulnerable families and individuals. CAF's child protection and foster care services protect children who have been abused and neglected or those who are at immediate risk of harm. However, children of color enter foster care at a higher rate and leave foster care at a slower rate than do white children, resulting in disproportionality relative to the general population. In Oregon, African American children make up 2.3% of Oregon's child population, but children with an African American racial background make up 7.3% of Oregon's foster care population. Children with a Native American racial background are 1.3% of Oregon's child population but 10% of Oregon's foster care population. Caucasian children make up 70.6% of Oregon's child population and only 61.1% of Oregon's foster care population. CAF anticipates that changes in practice, policy, workforce recruitment and training will be needed to help make treatment of children and families more equitable despite race or ethnicity.