

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Jennifer Kellar, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/30, 4/8

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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 the percentage difference between the number 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, with the goal of correcting the disproportionality. The Task Force is directed to collect and analyze data and make recommendations that will assist in the preventing the disproportionality. The Task Force is required to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2010. The Task Force sunsets at the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session. Declares emergency, takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Possible need for amendment
- Disproportionality and disparities
- Reducing disparities
- Funding by Casey Family Programs for next two years
- Statistics surrounding children of color in foster care system
- Potential causes for children in foster care system
- Eight counties with on-going efforts
- Cultural differences and corresponding services
- Verification of investigation outcomes surrounding children of color
- Continuation of increased needs for agency services not commensurate with agency resources

**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. The child protection and foster care services protects children who have been abused and neglected or are at immediate risk of harm. Self-sufficiency and vocational rehabilitation programs assist families and people with disabilities with economic security through temporary supports for basic needs, such as food, health coverage and child care, while working with them to meet their employment goals. The Task Force created under Senate Bill 630 will provide research and form recommendations to improve outcomes for children and families of color by reducing or eliminating disparities and any disproportionate representation of minorities in the child welfare system.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*