



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

March 15, 2013

TO: Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: HB 3217

Disability Rights Oregon is mandated by federal law to investigate complaints of abuse or neglect of individuals with disabilities including people who receive mental health services. As part of that responsibility, DRO has contributed to the development and refinement of Oregon laws governing the mandatory reporting and investigation of suspected abuse and neglect.

A structural challenge of our law has been its coverage of both individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as mental health service recipients. These groups have different needs and level of vulnerability. Another challenge has been the law's coverage of both residential services and community services: setting with very different requirements for oversight.

DRO supports HB 3217 as part of an ongoing fine-tuning of our abuse reporting statutes that recognizes and addresses the greater need for protections of residential clients.