



# Oregon Department of Justice

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## Division of Child Support

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### **TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 589 For the House Judiciary Committee April 23, 2013**

#### **Presented by:**

**Kate Cooper Richardson, Director  
Oregon Child Support Program  
Division of Child Support  
Department of Justice**

This testimony is presented in support of Senate Bill 589.

#### **How This Bill Changes Current Law**

The Oregon Child Support Program establishes and modifies child support orders using administrative procedures. The Program may only modify orders if the facts of the case have substantially changed since the order was entered. If the Program modifies a support order that was established under the administrative process, the support order is filed in court without the need for approval by a judge. If the Program modifies a support order that was established under the judicial process, that support order must be approved by the court. Getting approval through signature from a judge does not involve a hearing or any new fact-finding.

The proposed legislation repeals the requirement of a separate judicial approval for administrative modifications of judicial support orders, making the modification effective on filing in court. The parties will continue to have the same right to appeal the administrative order *de novo* in circuit court by requesting a hearing within sixty days.

The Child Support Program conferred with the Oregon Judicial Department in the drafting and submission of this measure.

### **Key Points of Legislation**

- Provides faster processing of child support modifications, which benefits the parties and families
- Reduces workload for courts and for the Child Support Program
- Maintains due process protections for parents through administrative hearing and *de novo* judicial appeal rights.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact from this bill.

### **Fiscal Benefits**

This bill would save time and reduce workload for the courts and the Child Support Program.

### **Recommended Action**

The Department of Justice recommends committee approval of Senate Bill 589 because it will provide faster child support modifications for families and reduce administrative burden on the courts and the Child Support Program.

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