



Oregon

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DATE: May 15, 2013

TO: The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Harry Gilmore
Interstate Compact and Contract Unit
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SUBJECT: Bill Number 2920

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Close, members of the Committee, my name is Harry Gilmore, and I manage the Interstate Compact and Contracts Unit at the Department of Human Services. I'm here to testify in support of HB 2920.

Passage of this bill will make it possible for DHS to remove some confusing and inapplicable language from the written notice our department provides to individuals when we conduct criminal checks as part of a child abuse investigation.

Currently, when the department runs a background check for a child abuse investigation, the individual being checked is notified in writing. By law the written notice must inform the individual of his or her right to formally challenge the accuracy of the information resulting from the check, and it must inform the individual of certain employment-related rights under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It's the information about employment-related rights that doesn't apply to people who are being checked in connection with a child abuse investigation, and it's this information that passage of HB 2920 will permit DHS to remove from the notice. Doing so will eliminate the potential for confusion on the part of someone who receives a notice of a child abuse investigation. The notice will no longer have information about employment rights when the background check being run has nothing to do with employment.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

After passage of HB 2920 DHS would still be required to provide written notice and to inform individuals of the right to challenge the content of their criminal records for individuals involved with a child abuse investigation. The department would also still be required to notify individuals of their employment-related rights whenever a check is run for any purpose other than a child abuse or neglect investigation.

This bill makes sense in that it will ensure that DHS continues to provide people with the critical information they need following a background check while at the same time ensuring that people are not provided with information that is inapplicable to their situation and potentially confusing to them.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2920, and I'm happy to answer any question you may have.