

FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS CHERYL GIBSON.

State Workers have been dealing with short staffing and without modern equipment to do their job properly. The Department of Justice, Child Support Workers are no different.

Just like other Brothers and Sisters throughout the state our productivity is stunted by being short staffed, having to pull front line employees away from the services to staff the projects that are needed for the program. The projects come with federally funded dollars that we received to do the projects. Those employees are left behind to do the regular work are over tasked in their duties to the program.

Our aging computer system is inadequate for doing our work effectively and efficiently for both our customers and our staff. The last fix was just a band-aid to make our system better, however it did not make it any faster or easier.

We are extremely encouraged and in full support of the Agency's plan to modernize the computer system. A modern system will allow us to do our jobs more effectively and increase the productivity of the workforce. Furthermore, the citizens who rely on our services for child support and the State will benefit greatly from this upgrade. Workers have been asking for these changes to do our job more effectively and will welcome the opportunity this upgrade will present.

Along with the computer upgrade, our agency needs more staff. As important as the upgrade is, the workload on the Department of Justice workers across the Divisions are too high. Our brothers and sisters on the Legal Divisions suffer from similar staffing issues. We ask for the legislature's full support in giving our agency the staffing it needs to work more effectively. A computer upgrade for Division of Child Support is vital, but so is the staffing to do the job to the highest standard all around the Department.

The child support case loads are huge. Case loads are way too high to manage for the customers of Oregon. Our department is trying to cope, but the stress of constantly increasing case loads is not healthy for our members, our clients, or for the state.

We again support and request that you fully fund the modernization of our computer system, but still realize that behind the computer system are the brothers and sisters that produce the work. Department of Justice needs funds for more people as well. My co worker are overwhelmed with the workload that they have everyday. The customers I speak with these days even know that we are over whelmed and tell me that when I am working with them.

Please fully fund the request to keep the services to Oregon and most importantly the children and families .