



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97351
Voice: 503-945-5600
Fax: 503-581-6193



DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2015

TO: Chair Jeff Barker
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Stacey Ayers, Child Safety Program Manager
Office of Child Welfare Programs
Child Safety Program
Oregon Department of Human Services
971-673-1854

SUBJECT: HB2205

Chair Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB2205.

1. Over the past two years, community partners and stakeholders along with representatives from various government agencies at the county, state and federal level have been meeting regarding the issue of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).

This work group, led by Representative Tomei, focused its attention on opening a shelter facility to be used solely for this population of sexually abused children. The group also recommended the formation of an advisory committee that could give guidance and direct funds consistent with addressing the treatment needs of this population. The group specifically requested the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist with forming the CSEC advisory council. DOJ already operates a similar advisory committee known as CAMI, (Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention) within its Crime Victim's Services Division.

Separately, a question was raised whether an advisory council, operating in a similar capacity as CAMI, could accept private donations without specific

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enabling legislation. DOJ analyzed the issue and determined that legislation was needed. The result is HB2205.

At the federal level, President Obama recently signed into law House Resolution 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act which coincides with HB2205. The federal legislation requires state Child Welfare programs to develop, train to and implement a comprehensive program to meet the needs of sexually trafficked youth. HB2205, if passed, could assist the department in meeting the requirements of this federal legislation.

If the committee is interested in receiving additional information regarding HR4980, the department is happy to provide that.

The Department will remain neutral on HB2205.