

Dear Rules Committee,

My name is Rhonda Morgan and I currently serve the citizens of Oregon as a Case Manager in the Self Sufficiency Program through the Department of Human Services. I live and work in the small south coast community of Gold Beach.

I am writing in support of HB 3037.

I realize that, as a public employee, information about my job, salary, retirement and workplace are all public record. I do not believe that my personal information, such as my family's address, my cell phone or driver's license numbers should be.

When my children and I came to Oregon in August of 2003, we were escaping a very violent and dangerous situation and arrived with not much more than the clothes on our backs. I lived in fear that we would be found. If not by my abuser, then by the people he was involved with who had at one time threatened to harm us because of money that he owed them.

When I began working for DHS in January of 2004 I asked that my name be kept out of the employee registry. I thought that was the only way I could be found through my employment with the State. I thought I would be safely invisible to anyone looking for me. If I had known that a simple public records request would allow all of the information I had been trying so hard to keep private to be provided to just anyone, I don't know that I would have come to work for the state.

In the 11 years I have been working with DHS, I've provided support to the adult protective service investigators, determined eligibility for food stamp, medical, employment related day care, temporary assistance to domestic violence survivors and TANF or cash assistance programs. Some of the people I have worked with live with mental illness and /or addiction issues. They can be volatile and obsessive if not receiving the medical care they need to maintain stability. I have helped other domestic violence survivors with safety plans and resources that allowed them to escape and successfully create safe situations for themselves and their families.

While my personal situation has been resolved and my family no longer faces the kind of threat we once did, I am still very uncomfortable knowing that anyone can find out our personal information. I ask for your support of HB 3037 to honor not only my privacy, but the privacy of all the public employees who serve Oregon every day.

Thank you so much for your attention to this very important matter.

Rhonda Morgan

Gold Beach, Oregon