



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Building
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Telephone: (503) 378-4400

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Chip Shields, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Public Safety Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Please accept this letter as response to questions raised by the Subcommittee during the Department of Justice's (DOJ) budget presentation on March 26, 2015.

Q1. How much is spent defending agency orders?

A1. For the 2013-15 biennium, DOJ has billed \$2.9 million.

Q2. How do child support collections compare from 2014 to 2015?

A2. For the first quarter of this calendar year (January to March 2015), the Division of Child Support anticipates a continued trend of 2% overall reduction in collections, representing \$1,903,788.

Table 1: First Quarter Collections 2015

Period	2014 1 st Qtr. (Jan – Mar)	2015 ¹ 1 st Qtr. (Jan – Mar)
Total Collections	\$98,203,246	\$96,299,458
Change from previous period	(\$1,592,781)	(\$1,903,788)
	-2%	-2%

¹ First Quarter of the 2015 year has not concluded. This figure represents an estimate based on quarterly performance to date and historical averages.



Additionally, the Division of Child Support has figures available comparing collections per case with orders from 2010 to 2014. As shown in the table below, the average payment amount per ordered case in 2014 was \$24 (or 1%) less than in 2010. While \$24 may appear to be insignificant, when multiplied across the total number of cases with orders in 2014, it represents a possible reduction of \$4,182,283 in collected support.

Table 2: Average Collections on Cases with Orders FFY 2010 to 2014

2010 FFY	\$ 2,076
2014 FFY	\$ 2,052
Difference	\$ (24) 1%

Q3. How do the District Attorney statistics compare to DOJ for child support caseloads, collections, etc.?

A3.

Table 3: Child Support Statistics by Provider

Oregon Child Support Program ¹	DCS		DA	Program Total
	Assistance Cases	Non Assistance Cases	Non Assistance Cases	
Program Offices	12 ²		25	37
Program cases ³	115,731	79,925	34,570	230,226
Children 21 or younger in Program	88,319	60,994	26,382	175,694
Children 18 or younger in Program	73,314	50,631	21,900	145,845
% of Oregon Children 18 or younger in Program (3 rd after public school and OHP) ⁴	8%	5%	2%	15%
2014 Annual collections (\$1.3 million per day) ³	\$ 5,746,935	\$ 105,016,015	\$ 152,373,695	\$ 363,136,645
Collections through income withholding (70%) ⁵	\$ 4,022,855	\$ 73,511,211	\$ 106,661,586	\$ 254,195,652

^{1.} All figures are based on the 2014 Federal Fiscal Year 4th Quarter reports.

^{2.} The DCS County Cases represent the cases from 10 counties who have contracted with the Division of Child Support for state management of their DA caseload.

^{3.} Caseload counts and annual collections are derived from the OCSE 157 quarterly report.

^{4.} Population figures for children in Oregon 18 and under were obtained from United States Census Data available via the American Fact Finder.

^{5.} Percent of collections obtained through income withholding derived from the OCSE 34A Child Support Enforcement Program Collection Report.

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Q4. What is the cost of the new Child Support System?

A4. At this time, the full development of the Oregon Child Support System is anticipated at \$88,506,226. Of that expense, \$58,414,109 would be paid through federal financial participation. These figures represent the most recent estimate as calculated in October 2014 (exclusive of debt service). The Child Support System Project estimated budget continues to adjust as contracts are finalized and actual contracted figures are obtained. The Project budget and timeline will be "re-baselined" at that time.

If we can provide additional information on any of these topics, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick M. Boss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.

FREDERICK M. BOSS
Deputy Attorney General