



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: February 24, 2017

TO: Chair Holvey
House Committee on Business and Labor

FROM: Chuck Hibner
Office of Payment Accuracy and Recovery
Estate Recovery Program

Oregon Department of Human Services
503-378-3584

SUBJECT: HB 2346

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2346.

My name is Chuck Hibner and I am the Administrator of the Oregon Department of Human Service's Office of Payment Accuracy and Recovery. With me is Rick Mills our policy analyst and resident expert on issues of estate recovery.

Our office consists of a number of units assisting Human Services and Health Authority programs with program integrity and recovery functions. Estate Recovery is a program which seeks reimbursement for certain public benefits, including Medicaid, from the estate of a deceased individual as required by either federal or state law.

Current law allows the program under certain circumstances to submit an affidavit to bank or credit union asking that the funds in the deceased person's account be forwarded to the Estate Recovery program. This is done by submitting an affidavit to the financial institution.

HB 2346 will streamline the process by removing the need for a notary to administer an oath. Instead, staff would be able to sign the affidavit using a declaration under penalty of perjury; similar to the declaration allowed in Oregon Rule of Civil Procedure 1E.

The Northwest Credit Union Association and Oregon Bankers Association do not oppose the bill. The Northwest Credit Union Association has proposed an amendment to clarify a portion of the existing statute.

I am happy to try and answer any questions.

We welcome your support and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Department supports this bill and requests your support as well.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"