

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of HB 2345
Before the House Judiciary Committee**

March 14, 2017

Chair Barker and members of the Committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports improvements in the provision of legal services in juvenile court proceedings, and supports the efforts taken in HB 2345 to achieve that end. Decisions made in juvenile dependency cases can have lifelong implications for vulnerable Oregonians, and the Bar is pleased that HB 2345 will help ensure positive outcomes for children in these proceedings by taking steps toward ensuring that children have access to representation.

The Bar participated in the Governor's Task Force on Dependency Representation during the interim and supports the recommendations made by that group. In the months since, the bar has continued to facilitate workgroups focused on developing and updating performance standards for lawyers practicing in juvenile cases. This effort will continue to improve the quality of legal services provided by attorneys in the field by clarifying expectations for representation and informing practitioners of resources available for lawyers and their clients.

We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature and with advocates for the juveniles and the dependency system to further improve service delivery in the future.