



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Chair Gelser
Vice-Chair Olsen
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: SB 948

ODDS strives to support choices of individuals with disabilities and their families within communities by promoting and providing services that are person-centered and directed, flexible, community inclusive, and supportive of the discovery and development of each individual's unique gifts, talents and abilities. We are committed to work toward service options to assure that people with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to have lives that are fulfilling and meaningful.

SB948-1 calls for the creation of rules that will define types of abuse that, if substantiated, will disqualify the abuser from working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and would require the Department to deny employment to applicants, and to terminate employees, who have committed one of the types of abuse.

Currently, the Department has an established process that reviews the backgrounds of individuals applying for employment and of individuals desiring to continue their employment in residential training homes and residential training facility settings. These are settings are licensed by the Department and provide services to persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

SB 948 codifies existing practices by ensuring that individuals with egregious substantiated abuse are disqualified from working with vulnerable individuals. While this bill will not change current policy and practice, it will give the department statutory authority to act when needed. This will allow the Department to continue strengthening our efforts to ensure that services for vulnerable individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are only delivered by qualified providers in the safest manner possible.

Sincerely,

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Department of Human Resources

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"