



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

TTY: 503-945-5896

DATE: April 25, 2017

TO: Chair Beyer
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

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

Oregon Department of Human Services
503-378-3584

SUBJECT: HB 2346

Chair Beyer 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 of money. Estate Recovery is a program tasked with implementing federal and state mandates to seek reimbursement from the estate of certain deceased individuals that received certain assistance benefits, including Medicaid.

One tool we use is to submit an affidavit to a financial institution requesting the funds in small accounts, under \$25,000, that belonged to the deceased be paid the estate recovery program.

The HB 2346 makes two changes to the existing statutes:

- Allows us to streamline the process by replacing the notary requirement with a declaration under penalty of perjury, similar to that allowed in the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure 1E.
- Allow financial institutions to obtain written or verbal authorization from the estate recovery program to release account funds to non-spouse family members sooner than 76 days, if there is no estate recovery claim. A spouse may always request the funds at any time.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

The Oregon Banker's Association is neutral and the Northwest Credit Unions Association support this bill. We ask for your support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.