



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Human Services**

*Aging and People with Disabilities*

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Chair Barker  
Vice-Chair Olson  
Vice-Chair Williamson  
Member of House Judiciary



RE: SB 95

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on SB 95. The Department supports this bill, which if passed, will significantly aid in the prompt investigation of reported elder financial abuse and allow DCBS and certain categories of securities professionals to put a temporary freeze on suspicious requested transactions on an elder's financial or brokerage accounts. Such a transactional delay will allow broker-dealer and investment advisor firms to conduct an internal investigation to determine the propriety of the transaction to prevent transactions not truly authorized by a vulnerable person. The delay would also allow DCBS to review the propriety of the transaction and to refer the matter to appropriate law enforcement officials if staff believe that a crime is being committed or may have been committed.

Fast response to reports of financial exploitation of a vulnerable person may well save a significant portion of the person's savings and investments from unauthorized account withdrawals or transfers. Frequently, money that has been stolen cannot be recovered; however, actions promptly taken under SB 95 may lead to recovery of some assets or even prevention of a wrongful transfer in the first place. DHS Adult Protective Services (APS) staff will now have more opportunity and access to relevant evidence to effectively investigate this type of elder abuse. Law enforcement will have specific authority to be able to request information regarding the affected accounts to prosecute charges of criminal mistreatment, theft, and other related charges as may be appropriate.

We urge passage of SB 95 to aid in significantly reducing the wrongful taking of vulnerable Oregonians' financial assets.

Sincerely,

Christian Hale, Legal Services Developer  
Oregon Department of Human Services

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

