



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Aging and People with Disabilities

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May 15, 2017

Chair Prozanski
Vice-Chair Thatcher
Members of Senate Judiciary



RE: HB 2622 Response from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS)

Dear Chair Prozanski,

This letter is being submitted in response to a statement made during the Public Hearing on HB 2622. During the testimony, it was stated that adding bankers to the list of mandatory reporters may overburden the Oregon Department of Human Services due to an increase in abuse reporting. We would like to clarify that this statement did not come from the Department, as we encourage the reporting of suspected abuse in all capacities.

The DHS vision is "safety, health, and independence for all Oregonians." We believe that all Oregonians have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. We believe that abuse reporting is necessary and that each report is a step forward for protecting Oregon's vulnerable.

While we appreciate the long-standing efforts of Oregon bankers in the identification of elder abuse, we want to ensure that committee members are aware that the Department encourages reporting of abuse to protect vulnerable populations. We are not concerned with any perceived burden.

Sincerely,

Ashley Carson Cottingham

Director, Aging & People with Disabilities Program (APD)

Justin Hopkins

Director, Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations (OAAPI)

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"