



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Aging and People with Disabilities

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May 30, 2017

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



RE: SB 95 Statement from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS)

Good afternoon,

This letter is being submitted to respond to the statement that adding securities professionals to the list of mandatory reporters may overburden the Oregon Department of Human Services due to an increase in abuse reporting. This is a non-issue. 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 our partners 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 and People with Disabilities Program (APD)

Justin Hopkins

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

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”