



Oregon

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DATE: January 30, 2017

TO: Chair Gelser and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Dr. Reginald Richardson, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services
Jeannine Beatrice, DHS Director's Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Testimony for Wednesday, February 1, 2017
(1:00pm, Hearing Room D)

DHS has been working with Senator Gelser on adjustments and updates related to SB 1515(2016). Several adjustments are found within these five bills. The updates include expanding the definition of child in care to now include children and youth in child welfare foster homes, DD foster homes, and DD residential facilities. This is an addition of about 4000 new settings.

With the task to implement SB 1515 last year, DHS found they needed clarifications for both staff and caretakers. We asked for clarifications and adjustments to the notification requirements. For example, SB 1515 language requires DHS to notify "any governmental agency or unit that has a contract with the child-caring agency to provide care or services" and we asked that that language be changed to align with the intent, which is to notify, specific state agencies such as Oregon Youth Authority or Oregon Health Authority. We also asked for the clarification of the definition of child, so as to not unintentionally include 20-year-olds who reside in a non-child caring agency. And we asked for more discretion when the Department is in the process of revoking or notifying a provider of license revocation. The goal is for safe places for children and youth to reside and there should be incentives for all involved in the system of care to quickly ameliorate safety concerns.

SB 243

Expands definition of "child in care." The updates include expanding the definition of child in care to now include children and youth in child welfare foster homes, DD foster homes, and DD residential facilities. This is an addition of about 4000 new settings.

SB 244

Establishes notification requirements of Department of Human Services regarding reported or suspected deficiencies, violations or failures of child-caring agency to comply with full compliance requirements and regarding reports of suspected child abuse of child in care.

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SB 245

Modifies definitions of "child" and "child-caring agency."

SB 246

Sets forth circumstances under which Department of Human Services may immediately suspend, revoke or place conditions on license, certification or other authorization of child-caring agency.

SB 636

Defines finding of unsubstantiated report of abuse of child in care.