



# Oregon

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**Date:** February 3, 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 Chair of Staff

**Subject:** Testimony for Monday, February 6, 2017  
(1:00PM, Hearing Room D)

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## SB 243-3

Expands the definition of "child in care" to include children receiving care and services from certified foster homes and developmental disabilities residential facilities, allowing the Department to use a single definition of abuse.

SB 243 adds children and youth who reside in Child Welfare foster homes, Developmental Disability foster homes and Developmental Disability residential facilities to the definition of child in care. The Department of Human Services use several definitions of abuse when screening and investigating child safety. The definition of abuse that the Department uses is often dependent on the type of setting the child or youth is residing in. This bill provides the Department the ability to use one definition for abuse for children and youth in many types of care. By adding children and youth who reside in certified foster homes and developmental disabilities residential facilities to the definition of child in care, this allows the Department to use a single definition of abuse. It is in line with our unified child safety implementation planning to reset how the Department responds to alleged abuse with the child/youth and family at the center. The bill is explicit to not include persons under the age of 21 residing in their own home with the child's parent. It also excludes foster families from having the same requirements as programs with employees, such as trainings and policy manuals, so as to not burden them.