



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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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: SB 244 Testimony for Monday, February 6, 2017
(1:00PM, Hearing Room D)

SB 244-1

Establishes notification requirements of the Department of Human Services regarding reported or suspected safety concerns of licensed child caring agencies.

The Department of Human Services asked for clarification on required notifications when the department becomes aware of suspected deficiencies (licensing or otherwise) in a child caring agency. SB 244 (2017) provides relief by reducing who DHS must notify before anything is substantiated or founded. For example, current requirements requires DHS to notify numerous entities such as any governmental agency or unit, governing boards and trustees that has a contract with the child-caring agency to provide care or services at the point of the department "becoming aware," whereas this bill specifies that notifications should go to appropriate personnel in the Department and if relevant, Oregon Youth Authority.

The Department will still be required to notify governmental agencies when deficiencies or abuse are founded/substantiated, or if the Department determines the program's failures pose a serious danger to a child. The Department will also continue to notify entities, including governmental agencies, legislative assembly, and members of the child caring agency's governing board if a program does not comply with corrective actions.

Finally, the Department will continue to notify Department personnel and relevant governmental agencies when the Department becomes aware of suspected child abuse of a child in care.