



February 3, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Anna Keenan-Mudrick and Bernie Wilson, Co-Chairs, IDD Coalition

RE: Support for SB 243

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Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The IDD Coalition believes that everyone benefits when a child with a disability is raised with the supports they need to live a healthy, safe and fulfilling life as a member of their community. A basic part of living a fulfilling life is the right to live free from abuse – and if abuse is suspected, have the incident duly investigated and the proper authorities notified.

We support SB 243 because it would strengthen requirements for mandatory abuse reporting and investigation plus strengthen notification requirements for appropriate Department of Human Services (DHS) personnel.

DHS and children with IDD are well served when Oregon can ensure that children are raised in safe environments with supports they need to be successful. To do this, people working with children in foster homes and IDD residential facilities should be mandatory abuse reporters, investigators must have adequate tools and DHS personnel must be properly informed of abuse reports. By strengthening these three areas, SB 243 is a step in the right direction to protect children with disabilities.

We urge you to support the safety of Oregon children with IDD by passing SB 243.