

Testimony for SB 397

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I am pleased to come before the committee today to advocate for this important bill. The integration and security of personal data is vital to the progression of human services delivery in the 21st century. As part of my master's thesis I've been working closely with Beverly Stein at the National Policy Consensus Center in partnership with the Oregon Business Council Poverty Task Force to conceptualize the future of human services delivery. The result is a concept called the Lifelong Prosperity Accounting System.

The LPAS is essentially a single access point for human services that also serves as an account for every Oregonian set up at birth. It includes sub-accounts that activate and deactivate over the course of a lifetime. I am attempting to design a fully integrated tool to help overcome poverty and help individuals reach their own goals of self-sufficiency. The purpose of these accounts is (a) to provide transparency and access to entitlement dollars through a single electronic portal, and (b) support financial planning for self-sufficiency by utilizing integration, social supports and educational tools. The platform also holds great potential to lend new, data-driven insights into the pursuit of self-sufficiency.

One of the barriers I identified in the process of developing a pilot project for this concept is the disparate nature of the data systems and forms used by the various state agencies that serve as the gatekeepers for resources from tax credits to TANF. In order to create a single electronic access point, you need a secure, transferable data form and congruent systems to handle that data securely. The recent computer systems security audit conducted by the Secretary of State's office revealed much room for improvement across all thirteen Oregon agencies audited:

"More than half had weaknesses in six of the seven areas reviewed... Most agency security planning documents were inadequate because they were not based on an IT risk assessment designed to identify the unique security needs and risks of the agency. In addition, two agencies did not have security plans."

The Audit recommend that the Office of the State Chief Information Officer:

- Collaborate with state agencies to develop detailed plans in order to fully implement the requirements of Executive Order No. 16-13.
- Develop sufficient statewide standards and processes for oversight to ensure security of agency computer systems. (Report Number 2016-30, November 2016, Statewide IT Security)

I hope that you will support SB397 because this bill serves as an essential cornerstone to both the future of human services delivery and the security of integrated state systems. Oregon agencies have reached a technological juncture and in this session we have an opportunity to begin the necessary work needed to protect and share vital, yet vulnerable data.