



February 6, 2018

TO: Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: Support for SB 1540

In 1991, I served on a workgroup on behalf of DRO that drafted a bill that would become Oregon's Abuse Reporting for Adults with Mental Illness or Developmental Disabilities law. At that time, all community mental health services were provided by counties or their contractors.

In the intervening years, Oregon's process for funding community mental health services changed but its abuser reporting and investigation law did not. The result has been to leave highly vulnerable people without the benefit of abuse investigation and protective services, when necessary. It has also caused abuse investigations in the Oregon State Hospital to lose a level of protection from conflict of interest. SB 1540 will remedy these problems by returning authority to county and state abuse investigation teams to take appropriate action to keep vulnerable individuals safe.

For this reason, DRO supports SB 1540.