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**TO: Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: February 24, 2021**  
**RE: Testimony on SB 517**

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Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mae Lee Browning and I am testifying on behalf of OCDLA.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

SB 517 is a step in the right direction. OCDLA respectfully requests the opportunity to work with the stakeholders on the language of the bill. OCDLA submits the following suggestions to the language of the bill.

Page 2, lines 4 – 8: Replace the current language with the following:

When the Department of Human Services takes a child into protective custody or is granted protective custody of a child by the juvenile court, the department shall promptly provide the person having legal custody of the child with a clear and concise explanation of

- (a) the reasons that the child was taken into protective custody,
- (b) the risks to the child that the department believes the person should ameliorate before the department will voluntarily return the child, and
- (c) the actions the department believes the person should take to ameliorate the risks to the child.

Page 2, lines 20 – 21: Replace the current language with the following:

The actions the department believes the person having legal custody should take to ameliorate the risks to the child so that the department will return the child home.

Page 3, lines 9 – 11: Replace “and the expected remedial steps that the person having legal custody of the child will need to take before the child can be returned” with “the actions the department believes the person should take to ameliorate the risks to the child so that the department will return the child.”

Page 3, lines 16 – 19: Relace the current language with the following:

That the person taking the child into protective custody provided the person having legal custody of the child with a clear and concise explanation of the reasons that the child was taken into protective custody, the risks to the child that the department believes the person should ameliorate before the department will voluntarily return the child, and the actions the department believes the person should take to ameliorate the risks to the child.

Page 4, lines 44 – 45: Replace “The expected remedial steps that the department told the person having legal custody of the child needed to be taken before the child could be returned” with “The actions the department believes the person having legal custody should take to ameliorate the risks to the child.”

Page 5, line 1: Replace “steps” with “actions.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.