



Oregon Department of Justice

Ellen F. Rosenblum, Attorney General
Lisa M. Udland, Deputy Attorney General

Division of Child Support

1162 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 947-4388
Fax: (503) 947-2578
TTY: (800) 735-2900
oregonchildsupport.gov

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 573 For the Senate Committee on Human Services January 23, 2023

Presented by:

Kate Cooper Richardson, Director
Oregon Child Support Program
Division of Child Support
Department of Justice
kate.richardson@doj.state.or.us

This testimony is presented in regard to Senate Bill 573.

Senate Bill 573 contemplates paternity or parentage determinations by either a court or by an administrative action. The Oregon Child Support Program is the only entity that establishes parentage administratively, but it would not be able to do so in this context.

The Oregon Child Support Program is authorized to use an administrative process to establish paternity only for *dependent* children for whom a second legal parent has not already been established. See ORS 25.511(3). In this context, the person likely would already have a legal second parent on the birth record and, at age 21 or over, would no longer be a dependent. In addition, the program establishes paternity or parentage to ensure that dependent children have two parents responsible to support them. Identifying the original birth parent of an adult person whose legal parentage has already been determined is activity by the Oregon Child Support Program (Oregon's Title IV-D program) that would not qualify as an "allowable expense" eligible for federal reimbursement under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

Recommended Action

The Oregon Department of Justice recommends amendment of Senate Bill 573 to remove reference to "administrative determination of paternity or parentage" and leave the determination entirely a judicial one.