



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

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Co-Chair Wlnsvey Campos

Co-Chair Andrea Valderrama

Joint Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Services

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

At your hearing on March 17, 2025, during Oregon Department of Human Services' presentation on an overview of Child Welfare (CW), Senator Gelser Blouin requested additional information on the annual cost for paying the Wyatt v. Kotek lawsuit over the next 10 years, as well as the total cost expended in the five years when the lawsuit was ongoing.

Please see our response below:

Total Wyatt v. Kotek lawsuit expenditure

The requested expenditure is not directly a Child Welfare or ODHS expense; therefore, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) would have a more detailed breakdown. High level numbers provided by DAS are:

- \$18,986.680.47 spent on legal defense
- \$4,822,461.22 spent on expenses for experts and vendors
- \$11,417.415.57 spent on plaintiff legal attorney fees
- Total - \$35.2 million

Over the years in which this was paid, the fund split changed. Based on a weighted average, it was about \$21.5 million.

As a result of the lawsuit, Kevin Ryan was appointed as a neutral expert going forward. He will spend the next several months studying Oregon's foster care system and, by April 20, 2025, will

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recommend exact steps the State of Oregon must take to meet its agreed upon goals. Once those recommendations are set, Mr. Ryan will issue annual progress reports and determine if additional steps are necessary. We are happy to meet to discuss these results after they have been made available. The future cost of this is unknown.