

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3224

Subject: Opposition to HB 3224 – Review of Background Check Statutes

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 3224, which mandates the Department of Human Services to review and report on the various background check requirements across our state. While the intention behind this legislation may be to streamline processes, I believe it could lead to significant risks and unintended consequences that outweigh potential benefits.

Background checks play a crucial role in safeguarding vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. The existing system is designed to address the unique needs of different programs and services, ensuring that the appropriate level of scrutiny is applied based on context. A one-size-fits-all approach could compromise the effectiveness of these safeguards, putting at risk those who rely on these protections.

Additionally, the process of reviewing and potentially consolidating background checks may lead to delays in hiring and program implementation, hindering the ability of essential services to operate efficiently. The complexity of human services requires careful consideration of specific risks associated with different roles, and simplifying these requirements could inadvertently expose vulnerable individuals to harm.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB 3224 and prioritize the safety and well-being of those who depend on our human services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.