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**House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Testimony in Support of HB 3348 with the Dash 1 Amendment
March 18th, 2025**

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3348 with the Dash 1 Amendment. This bill from the Department of Justice Division of Child Support will provide important technical modernizations and updates to ensure that the state's child support program can continue to meet their mission of supporting parents to support children.

The Oregon Law Center (OLC) is a non-profit law firm whose mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities of Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. Our clients are low-income individuals who fall within 125% of the federal poverty level. Many of OLC's clients are parents who seek our assistance in matters relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of child support orders. The need for assistance is greater than our ability to provide individual services. We therefore balance our representation of individuals with policy-based advocacy regarding the system as a whole.

In analyzing and assessing child support policy issues, OLC has a long-standing set of priorities:

1. Ensure procedural fairness for all parties in the support case;
2. Maximize the income in the household of the child (i.e., low-income obligees) while preserving the ability of low-income obligors to meet their basic minimum needs and sustain employment.
3. Ensure accessibility and ease of use for all parties.

HB 3348 provides important technical and language revision updates that will streamline processes and make the program easier to access and simpler to understand. It will therefore improve outcomes for families and children. The -1 amendments remove Sections 1 and 2 of the original bill, which would have created a new mandatory child abuse reporting obligation for Division employees. After research, comparison to national best-practices, and discussion with stakeholders, the program determined that this issue is already being well-managed and does not need statutory change. Current OAR 137-055- 1140(16) and (17) appropriately require reporting when abuse is observed, and the program's current structure, training, and implementation are working well.

In this time of great economic stress for our state, many Oregonian children have approached or entered poverty for the first time in their lives. In times such as these, the Division of Child Support programs are more important than ever. For the above reasons, we respectfully urge your support of HB 3348-1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.