

MIKE NEARMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 23



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 7, 2015

Clyde Saiki, Interim Director
Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. NE
Salem 97301

Dear Director Saiki,

I am saddened and angered by media reports that an Oregon citizen, Anne Marie Gurney, made simple requests for Department of Human Services records that were subject to delays. The requested documents were clearly public records, yet were still subjected to delays by the Director of Public Affairs, Gene Evans, which resulted in the records not being delivered. Furthermore, it appears that the delay was intentional, so as to "wait out the clock" on pending legislation.

I find it outrageous that taxpayer funds are used to pay the salary of a Director of Public Affairs, whose job is to inform the public, and that person engages in tactics to keep public data from a member of the public. I therefore call for the termination of Director Evans, immediately.

Additionally, I would request that you come before the Legislature at the appropriate time and provide a thorough explanation regarding the circumstances involved in this situation. As public officials, we have an obligation to perform our duties in the most transparent and accountable manner possible. I believe a legislative hearing on this matter would provide us with an opportunity to clearly identify the mistakes that were made by the Department of Human Services while handling this request, and would better inform us on how to avoid similar failures in the future.

Sincerely

State Representative Mike Nearman

