

Secretary: Vote explanation. Sen Boquist

SB 1587 is a well-intended effort to expand “state immunity” known as qualified immunity to children advocacy centers involved in state child abuse investigations. At present, the State of Oregon tries to hide behind liability shields in its failed child abuse programs. SB 1587 places the centers on equal footing with the police state functions shielded by the Attorney General and courts in general. The State’s own representatives admit that 90% of child abuse complaints turn out false in the end. The entire system needs overhauled which would then reduce liability of everyone involved in the process. The so called safeguards to abuse in Section 4, common in other state agency child abuse immunities, are utterly useless to the child or parent harmed by false claims. No parent can afford \$100,000s to hire a lawyer to challenge the Attorney General who has unlimited money to spend against citizens. The Legislature has ensured parents and victims are silenced by the very laws passed. Then even if the parent wins with the Court awarding punitive damages, the Attorney General gets 70% of the damages back that were awarded. A complete scam put in place by the Legislature itself. The system needs fixed instead of expanding immunity. The problems is ten times bigger than providing due protections to the centers. No on SB 1587.