



May 16, 2023

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation SB 231

I agreed with the policy found in SB 231. The legislature should require DHS to create and maintain a centralized and efficient reporting system for child abuse. My objection to the bill was the process:

1. The bill's Fiscal Impact Statement was unclear about the true cost of this measure. The legislature should not be passing bills to learn what the costs may be in the future. Instead we ought to understand these costs up front instead of just hoping things turn out alright and if not allow agencies to come back to the legislature for additional funding.

*"Additionally, passage of the measure may require a reprioritization of current OIS workload, which requires approval by the DHS/OHA Shared Services Budget Committee. The Shared Services Budget Committee will advise if additional resources are required and evaluate impact to existing service level agreements. Should the committee find additional resources are required, OHA will submit a request for additional funding or positions in the future."*  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/74273>

2. SB 231 never went to Ways & Means. However, a bill with a similar fiscal impact did: namely HB 2005. This demonstrates a major problem in the legislative process where arbitrary decisions are made on how a bill travels through the legislature. For example, sometimes bills are sent to Ways & Means to prevent them from going to a second policy committee in the other chamber — avoiding full public input (as in the case of HB 2005). How a bill travels through the legislature can often mean whether it passes or not. Therefore it is important to have an objective standard.

My NO Vote on SB 231 was to help illustrate these problems with our process and not concerning the policy of the bill.

Sincerely,

**E. WERNER RESCHKE**  
State Representative, HD 55  
The Crater Lake District