



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2016

Contact: Caitie Butler

(503) 680-6944

[caitie.butler@state.or.us](mailto:caitie.butler@state.or.us)

### **Oregon's Child Welfare System Fails Federal Assessment**

*DHS Among Several State Agencies Currently Under Investigation*

**Salem, Ore.** - Yesterday, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Clyde Saiki informed legislators that Oregon's child welfare system had failed all 14 of the national standards for child safety and agency accountability. DHS is currently under investigation for abuse and fraud in the foster care system, alongside ongoing investigations at the Oregon Department of Energy (DOE), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ).

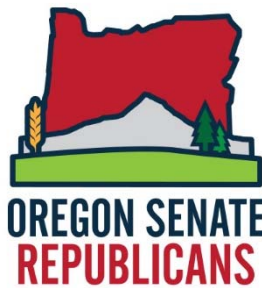
"Watching the serious ongoing crisis in our foster care system, we already knew that DHS is failing," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "But to find out that DHS is failing across all 14 federal standards for child welfare is appalling. We are encouraged that Director Saiki is admitting the severity of the problem, but we need to see significant action toward restoring the integrity of DHS and numerous other state agencies currently under investigation. The time for talk is over - we need a culture change in Oregon government now."

Last year, the Oregon Department of Justice, Secretary of State and the FBI launched an investigation into the Oregon Department of Energy over misconduct and fraud in DOE energy tax credit programs costing millions of dollars. Toxic air in SE Portland recently revealed that the Oregon DEQ has failed to implement and enforce reasonable air quality standards, and the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has been plagued with reports of officer misconduct in Oregon prisons. Other agencies recently accused of misconduct or

mismanagement include the Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; the costly lawsuit between Oracle and Cover Oregon is also ongoing.

"Oregon government is experiencing a crisis of accountability," said Ferrioli. "One-party rule has left state agencies incapable of making hard decisions and accustomed to being accountable to no one. It may be too late for intervention and strong action. The solution to Oregon's problem agencies may be regime change in the Legislature and in the Governor's Office."

###



[www.oregonlegislature.gov/senaterepublicans](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/senaterepublicans)

[facebook.com/ORSenateRepublicans](https://facebook.com/ORSenateRepublicans)

@ORSenateGOP