



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

June 29, 2005

The Honorable Karen Minnis
Speaker of the House
900 State Street NE – Rm. 269
Salem OR 97301

Dear Speaker Minnis:

I have signed Enrolled House Bill 2276. HB 2276 was introduced on behalf of the Oregon Law Commission as part of the Commission's ongoing effort to update and clarify portions of Oregon's Welfare Code, to update outmoded terms and to remove obsolete provisions. The ongoing work of the Commission is invaluable to the people of Oregon. HB 2276 focuses on addressing anachronistic and obsolete provisions in ORS Chapters 412 (Aid to Blind and Disabled Persons) and 413 (Old Age Assistance). I fully support the Commission's work in this area.

Some have suggested that HB 2276 could be interpreted to provide an increased right to a hearing to Department of Human Services' ("DHS") clients whose benefits are changed for any reason. After consultation with Legislative Counsel and others, I do not believe that it was the intent of the drafters or of the Legislature to make substantive changes to the law or to provide any increased right to a hearing to DHS clients and I do not believe that this bill does so. Rather, this bill simply clarifies and codifies existing law and practice. Accordingly, with that understanding, I have signed HB 2276.

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:DCR:lmh