Advocacy Coalition

of Seniors and People with Disabilities

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March 17, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair House Committee on Human Services and Housing 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2671 – Public Guardian & Conservator

Dear Chair Tomei and Committee Members,

The Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities supports HB 2671 and requests that the Committee on Human Services and Housing report it to the House with a do pass recommendation.

Thank you for hearing this important bill. The creation of an office of Public Guardian and Conservator would offer protection to some of Oregon's most vulnerable adults who need assistance in making decisions related to their housing, medical care and maintenance when a family member, friend or acquaintance is not available to help with these decisions.

It is important to provide assistance to these vulnerable Oregonians so that they are not taken advantage of and do not suffer the physical, mental, or other abuse and neglect so well described in testimony presented to your Committee at your hearing on March 15th.

Sincerely,

Robert Lawrence, Senior Co-Chair (503) 598-8672 <u>lawrence2243@comcast.net</u> Bill Olson, Disabilities Co-Chair (503) 851-7684 <u>fwolson@comcast.net</u>

CC: Committee Members

Advocating for Services Oregonians Can't Live Without