

# Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

INDEPENDENCE | CHOICE | DIGNITY

AARP Oregon

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter

Brain Injury Association of Oregon

Disability Services Advisory Council of Clackamas County

Elders in Action

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

Impact Northwest

Independent Living Resources

LeadingAge Oregon

Making Oregon Vital for Elders (MOVE)

Multnomah County Disability Services Advisory Council

Multnomah County Senior Advisory Council

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oregon Chapter

O4AD (Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities)

Oregon AFSCME Council 75

Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans

Oregon Health Care Association

Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens

Oregon Transit Association

Parkinson's Resources of Oregon

Residential Facilities Advisory Committee

Save Oregon Seniors

Seniors Serving Oregon Coalition

Service Employees International Union

United Seniors of Oregon

Urban League of Portland

We Can Do Better

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse, members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Madden. In addition to my role at the Oregon Health Care Association, I serve as the Legislative Chair for the Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities. The Campaign is a broad coalition of organizations that comes together to advocate on issues critical to seniors and people with disabilities with a focus on the budget.

Oregon has been a pioneer in long term care for several decades. In 1981, we were the first state to receive a waiver from CMS allowing Medicaid services in community-based options as opposed to nursing facilities. Community-based care options are not only much less cost intensive than the medicalized setting of a nursing facility, but also honor the philosophy of Oregon's long term care system – independence, choice, and dignity. Additionally, Oregon's long term care system has consistently ranked in the top five states in quality according to AARP's LTC State Scorecard, including being ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 2018.

However, if Oregon wants to remain ahead of the curve, we must continue making investments in these critical services. In addition to this testimony, I have submitted the Campaign's budget recommendations to the record. They include COLAs for home and community-based care providers, respite for family caregivers, full funding for the Gatekeeper program which helps train frontline workers to recognize abuse and neglect, investments in APD IT systems specifically the Centralized Abuse Management System (CAMS), and senior and disabled transit funding.

As you consider your priorities moving forward, please ensure that Oregon remains a national leader in long term care and that we do so by honoring the independence, choice, and dignity of Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Contact

[campaign4oregonspd@gmail.com](mailto:campaign4oregonspd@gmail.com)

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## 2019 Campaign Budget Recommendations

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### Family Caregiver Respite

Consistent with national best practices, the Campaign supports respite care for family members and friends who are the primary caregiver for older Oregonians at risk of becoming Medicaid-eligible. DHS would submit a Medicaid waiver proposal for federal matching funds. Estimated cost this biennium is \$3m GF.

### Wages and Training for Home and Community Based Care Providers

The Campaign supports the Governor's recommendation of 5% annual COLAs for home and community-based care providers. We are also supportive of the 10% rate adjustment for adult foster care homes. Oregon must continue investing in the long-term care workforce to maintain access to quality care. Labor shortages in Oregon are a significant challenge – especially in rural communities.

### Restore Funding to the Gatekeeper Program

The Gatekeeper Program is a crucial community abuse prevention program that trains front line customer service workers to recognize changes in people that may indicate abuse, neglect, or a need for service referral. The Campaign supports full funding at \$2 m GF per biennium.

### APD IT Systems/CAMS POP

The Campaign supports Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) upgrading and modernizing its IT systems, including implementing the Centralized Abuse Management System (CAMS). Current systems are old, unreliable, and very inefficient. They also don't capture the data policymakers and stakeholders need to inform budget and policy decisions. Specifically, the Campaign supports the implementation of CAMS, estimated to cost \$3m GF.

### Senior and Disabled Individuals Transit Funding

Senior transit is a critical component of delivering on "independence, choice, and dignity" for Oregon's seniors. The Campaign supports protecting vulnerable populations from devastating reductions in service by restoring \$10 million in targeted senior/disabled transit funding cuts in the GRB (transit districts can't spend new transit tax dollars to restore existing services).

### Contact

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