

Official written testimony for HB 3270

Attn: Mark Meek and Committee

From: Jennifer Cook-Buman, Placement Agent, Portland Senior Housing – DHS #1008

Adult Care Homes offer a unique option to families looking for long term care.

I am a placement consultant to families looking for the right home/facility/community to move their loved one into. Adult Care Homes offer a unique option to families looking for long term care.

Most of us are familiar with Assisted Living and Memory care communities. Please refer to DHS for the actual average staff to resident ratios, but in my recent experience, with the unemployment rate below 4% in our fair state, we have a staffing crisis in many of the assisted living and memory care facilities at this very moment. They are being literally forced to hire staff through a staffing agency - which is extremely expensive. Contemplate this as a responsible minimum +/- wage earner - I can hand an icy cold soda out a pass-through window for the same wage as battling with a geriatric human over the toilet, or into a shower ... what would you choose to do?? One comes with potential emotional baggage, the other... possibly a rare tip!

Adult care homes currently offer a ratio of 5 resident to 1 care giver... sometimes 2. I would HATE to see this option disappear. It is such a great option in so many instances, the state of Oregon has created exceptions for some homes to take in people on Medicaid that could only otherwise be serviced by Skilled Nursing Facilities - an extremely expensive option to the taxpayers. They have negotiated an amazing deal that is a win-win to the adult care homes, the resident, and the taxpayers. It would be so fantastic if this was the case for others, across the board.

The quality of care provided in the smaller setting is superior for many conditions, to name a few of the increasing:

- complex medical conditions such as sliding scale diabetics, colostomy bags, and even -peg feeding tubes. Simple monitoring by nurse delegation as they are now, but not required to be performed by a nurse. Provided in a home-like setting with consistent, committed caregivers that want to be there, doing the best to make the quality of life and care the best it can be.
- Dementia. If a person with dementia/Alzheimer's or other is not ambulatory (therefore not a wander risk), a smaller environment is far easier for them to navigate (thus feeling successful and loved).
- Dementia earl stage... if they feel loved, secure and cared for, the odds of wandering are far less, and if they are in a home like setting, odds are good that is what they are coming from, so it is familiar and not likely to wander away or very far.

The financial impact:

To be able to appropriately staff a home with qualified care givers, a home needs to generate at least \$200 per day per caregiver. This is before the benefits, food, utilities, mortgage, taxes, are paid. To add an additional 1 Or 2 people to the total will allow the Adult Care Home providers to have awake night time staff, and the quality of care to make a positive business model.

I support this bill, will be honored to be a part of a work committee, and hope to see it pass

I am very fearful that if the 'good homes' (proven track record with no violations), cannot add a resident or two, we will see this option disappear, and it will be a great travesty to the adults needing care in our state.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cook-Buman, Owner – Portland Senior Housing.