

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

Support Senate Bill 1035

On behalf of the Campaign for Seniors and People with Disabilities, we would like to offer our full support for SB 1035, a bill that will provide a pathway to finding resources for critical respite services to assist family caregivers in Oregon.

According to a 2016 report from the Oregon Caregiver Respite Work Group, nearly 470,000 family caregivers provide 437 million hours of unpaid care each year. Not only does this care help maintain individuals in their homes and homes of their loved ones, but this care is valued at an estimated \$5.7 billion annually. However, caregiving is a difficult and often stressful task. Without proper supports, caregivers are likely to burnout or have negative impacts on their own well-being.

In order for these family caregivers to be successful in the long-run, they need adequate supports including respite care. Respite care would allow caregivers to take a break – go grocery shopping, visit with friends, or simply rest and recuperate.

SB 1035 requires OHA and DHS to convene a stakeholder group to advise on the creation of a Medicaid waiver that would be submitted to CMS asking for our general fund dollars to be matched with federal Medicaid dollars in support of respite services. This is not a new idea as both Minnesota and Washington have Medicaid waivers that allow for support of respite services. As a leader in long term care services and supports, Oregon should join these two states in this critical support for family caregivers.

Contact

campaign4oregonspd@gmail.com