

March 9, 2021

State of Oregon
House Committee on Human Services

Re: Testimony on HB 2952

Chair Williams and Committee Members

I am a member of the Aging Services Services Advisory Council (ASAC) for the Multnomah County Area Aging Agency (AAA.) I am also 72 and provide some care for my wife, who is 69.

My volunteer work with Multnomah County as well as my personal experiences have given me a clear vantage point on the major work that will need to be done with our older population as we attempt to emerge from these months of isolation and return to some kind of normalcy. So far most have us have been in a survival situation, sheltered in place, without the contacts and many of the services that we all need to maintain some balance in our lives. We have also been the group most impacted by the Covid deaths that have taken some of our friends and neighbors.

While addressing this historic tragedy AAA staff has had to work without the ADRC Mental Health Grant funding that was eliminated from the FY21 budget and has yet to be replaced. It is imperative that the AAA has the funding to provide these critical services and we urge you in the strongest terms to pass this funding measure.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dave Daley
Portland, Oregon