

March 25, 2021

TO: Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

FROM: Roberta M. Janssen  
10705 SW Black Diamond Way  
Tigard, Oregon 97223

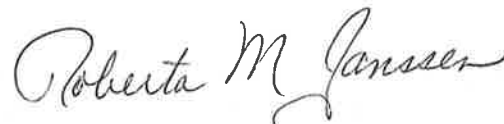
Honored Legislators:

I am a member of the Residential Ombudsman and Public Guardianship Advisory Board (ROPGAB) in the State of Oregon. As a volunteer advisory Board member, we provide input to the staff of the Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) office regarding issues that arise as the staff carries out their duties of providing support to vulnerable individuals who live in facilities licensed by the State of Oregon. The OLTCO consists of three programs - Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO), the Residential Facilities Ombudsman (RFO), and the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (OPGC). LTCO and RFO operate with staff who supervise volunteers who provide much of the direct service to the vulnerable citizens of the State of Oregon. The third program is still developing criteria for integrating volunteers into providing service.

This letter serves as strong written support for passage of HB5019, which provides funding to OLTCO. One portion of the bill provides for a substantial increase of funding for OPGC. ROPGAB has witnessed the efforts of OPGC to provide services to the most vulnerable of Oregon's citizens and for the past two years the number of citizens needing the guidance of the public guardian has far outpaced the ability of the limited staff to provide the services. The OPGC has made efforts to integrate volunteers into the delivery of services but volunteer training is a complex process for those needing public guardianship and more staff is needed just to do the training of volunteers, irrespective of the need for more staff to provide services to those vulnerable adults needing guardianship services. Those of us serving as ROPGAB members appreciate the work of the legislature and recognize difficult choices are being made by its members. However, with the increase in those waiting for evaluation for guardianship, we hope the legislature will positively support HB5019 for the full funding of LTCO, RFO, and particularly for funding and increase staffing for OPGC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta M. Janssen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Roberta M. Janssen