

I am writing this to oppose HB 2638, which would give legal immunity during the COVID-19 pandemic to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other long term care facilities. This is a bill that will harm our vulnerable citizens in Long Term Care and Nursing Homes. This bill would give LTC facilities immunity if they were in "reasonable Compliance" with just one of the COVID-19 guidance requirements, but out of compliance with any or all other requirements. These facilities have been out of compliance with staffing and infection control issues with little or no consequences. With 50+% from COVID-19 deaths in Oregon in LTC setting, residents and families need all the protections they can get.

I have been involved in care-giving since 2001 when my wife became ill. She has been in 5 different care setting and has survived the abuse and neglect from these facilities. Many complains were filed but seldom were they substantiated because the facility is always right and the resident is incompetent to make a decision.

Resent history ( Junction City Assisted Living, The Rawlins at Riverbend, Avamere at River Park ) are just a few that have made the news lately. Direct care staff, residents and families trying to get help and not getting any help from DHS. These facilities put profits over resident and staff wellbeing. If HB 2638 passes any hope to curb abuse and neglect is lost.

Please oppose HB 2638