

Support for HB 2495

I've been a resident in an adult foster care since 2011, and I support the short-term payment increase to adult foster home providers by 50 percent and support a long-term increase in their payments.

Adult foster homes provide an essential service to our community members. Our friends and loved ones have the right to choose to live in a home-like environment, rather than a nursing home facility. We have a right to choose the care ratio we would prefer -- 1:5 in adult foster homes or 1:30 in nursing homes. Adult foster homes not only support our physical well-being, but our mental health by providing connection, meaningful interactions, and supporting activities customized to the resident.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic:

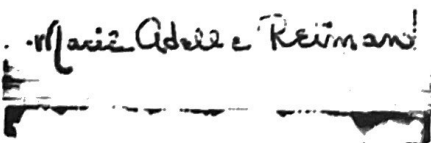
- Nursing homes received a flat 10% increase
 - Adult foster homes saw no increase
- Nursing homes received an additional 10% increase to provide competitive wages to employees
 - Adult foster homes did not see this adjustment and were unable to compete for staff. As a result, many adult foster homes lost staff to nursing homes and had to shut their doors permanently.
- Nursing homes were eligible to apply for a \$2,000 grant per resident to support emergency preparedness.
 - Adult foster homes were not eligible. These funds could have helped adult foster homes secure backup generators for their clients that rely on electricity-dependent medical devices and durable medical equipment, potable water for emergency use, and retrofitting older homes to meet current earthquake standards. Preparedness enables independence and decreases stress on hospitals and clinics, so they can focus on the critically ill and injured instead of those needing general supportive services.

The Oregon Legislator neglected our community members in adult foster homes and has for many years. This neglect has resulted in the closure of approximately half of adult foster homes in Oregon, exacerbating the shortage of long-term care housing, and an increased number of individuals unnecessarily hospitalized because appropriate housing is unavailable.

This increase in funding is desperately needed, and I appreciate the Oregon Legislator acknowledging the essential services adult foster homes provide to people like me.

One point of clarity, on lines 17-18 I was informed that the listed definition for "Base Rate" is incorrect because Room and Board is paid for by the resident or CMS, not the state. Room and Board is a fixed amount set by the federal government that cannot be changed by a state. The "Base Rate" definition should include "Services Base Payment," and a separate definition for "Add-on Services" should be added to match the current fee structure [rateschedule.pdf \(state.or.us\)](https://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/REGISTRATION/REGISTRATION%20SCHEDULES/Pages/rateschedule.pdf).

Respectfully,
Marie Adelle Reiman



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