



March 3, 2023

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Gerontological Association (OGA) recommends a “Do Pass” for HB2869-2. OGA is Oregon’s network for professionals who work with older adults. We envision our region as a vibrant and vital place to age - a region that celebrates older adults as assets.

Oregon is experiencing dramatic social change, and older adults are at the intersection. Demography is destiny. The 50-plus age cohort will grow from 36% to 43% of the population by 2050. According to AARP, more than half of Oregon voters in 2020 were aged 50 years or older. Oregon has a golden opportunity to leverage the power and resources of older adults to forge public policies to build vibrant, healthy, equitable, and resilient communities for people of *all* ages and abilities.

Unfortunately, although planning has occurred for the aging of our population in DHS Aging and People with Disabilities, aging affects ALL aspects of our lives – physical, social, economic, psychological. Other Oregon sectors/departments must be involved in this planning, as well, such as housing, business and consumer affairs, transportation, etc. HB 2869-2 proposes the formation of a cross-sector stakeholder group to begin crafting a multi-sector plan for aging in Oregon.

We urge you to support HB 2869-2 to bring together stakeholders from across State of Oregon departments to create the framework for a multi-sector plan for aging. Please, vote to report out with a “Do Pass” recommendation for HB 2869-2. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anabel Pelham, OGA President

*Anabel Pelham*

Bend, Oregon