



March 6, 2023

Co Chair Wlnsvey Campos & Co Chair Andrea Valderrama  
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem OR 97301

Co Chairs Campos & Valderrama and members of the Subcommittee:

O4AD is pleased to share our support for SB 5520, the budget bill for the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The LTCO in Oregon is a critical and important resource for residents in long-term care facilities to allow for monitoring of concerns that may be raised by residents. The LTCO volunteers are in facilities, providing a consistent, trusted resource for residents while also being trained to identify issues that impact safety, quality of care and protection of rights. Their work often brings to light areas of concern well before State monitors can identify the same concerns. Unfortunately, they are only able to reach about 40% of facilities - there is more work to be done.

As our state leaves the period of the pandemic, residents are now able to again utilize the important work of the LTCO to help them gain their voice in their care. O4AD, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities, through our case managers and adult protective services staff, work with this office as we all are striving to protect the independence, dignity, choice and safety for Oregon's older adults and people with disabilities. We ask for your support of their budget and requests to increase their work in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker  
On behalf of O4AD – the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities