

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

I support HB 2869-2. Recently retired from AARP, I'm still actively advocating for older adults as a member of the Age Friendly Economic Development and Employment Committee in Multnomah County and as a board member of the Oregon Gerontological Association.

While long considered a leader in helping older Oregonians choose how they live as they age, the state should be doing more to update old paradigms and broaden the lens by which it responds to changing demographics. By the year 2034, adults ages 65 and older will outnumber children under the age of 18.

Oregon's older adult consumers will change the marketplace from housing to transportation systems, healthcare and employment, and the need for paid and unpaid caregiving. Older adults are consumers, workers, caregivers, volunteers and serve other critical roles in our societies. Their contributions spur economic growth that benefits all generations, as well as communities and businesses.

Now is the time for leadership to keep Oregon communities strong. Please help to make our state a good place to grow up and grow old, and vote to report out with a "do pass" recommendation on HB 2869-2 to prepare a framework securing a better future for Oregon families. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Joyce De Monnin

Portland