

**SB 1077, Clarifying the Role of the Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee  
Testimony of Jim McConnell to Senate Human Services Committee  
March 2023**

My name is Jim McConnell. I live in Portland. I have been involved in the innovative development of Oregon's Long Term Care system, first as director of Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services Division, and after retirement, as an advocate for seniors and persons with disabilities.

I am testifying today in support of SB 1077, Clarifying the role of the Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC).

When the MAC was administered at the Dept. of Human Services, it's members gave vital input to the development of Oregon's home and community-based services system, advocating for an expanded array of service options to the most needy citizens needing assistance with activities of daily living. The Oregon system has become a national model for delivering Long Term Services and Supports. Members of the MAC also were involved in the transition of the Oregon Health Plan, Public Health and Mental Health to what is now the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

The MAC is now administered by the OHA. As such, it is seen as the official advisory group to OHA (and to the Federal CMS) on Oregon's Medicaid health care delivery system. In recent years, it has not given due (or equal) attention to the Medicaid Long Term Care System. Records of the MAC meetings show this.

We believe that consumers (and the Long Term care system overall) would benefit greatly from the MAC oversight and input as they have in the past.

We are asking the Legislature via SB 1077 to make clear that this vital advisory board (MAC) is intended to be a very strong influence in the development and administration of Medicaid Health and Long Term Care.

I urge your support for SB 1077.

Jim McConnell  
jimmcconnellpdx@comcast.net