

March 20, 2023
Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature Salem, Oregon

RE: **Support for SB 99-2**

To the Committee:

On behalf of the of the Board of Directors and staff of Quest Center for Integrative Health, serving the Portland Metropolitan Area, I strongly support the passage of Measure SB 99-2.

The LGBTQIA2S+ Bill of Rights will help provide protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and HIV status in long term care settings as well as improve access and gaps in services and equity in State programs. This bill also establishes a Commission to look at how access can be improved which advances the goals of equity and inclusion in our state. Establishing a Bill of Rights, as defined in SB 99-2, is crucial to ensuring that this long marginalized and vulnerable population is treated with dignity and respect as they age.

LGBTQIA2S older adults and individuals living with HIV face unique discrimination, often experiencing isolation, discrimination, and inadequate healthcare. These issues are particularly acute in long term care facilities for older adults. Passage of SB 99-2, the State of Oregon will be taking a long needed step forward to ensure that older adults in this population have equal access to housing, healthcare, and other services, as well as protection from discrimination and abuse.

We strongly support the passage of this landmark legislation in the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,



David Eisen, Lac, MSW, OMD(am)
Executive Director, Quest Center for Integrative Health