

Submitter: Jim Davis
On Behalf Of: Ore St Cn for Retired Citizens-United Seniors
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4122

Support of HB 4122, Caregiver Workforce Background Check Revision

I am Dr. Jim Davis, representing the Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens and United Seniors of Oregon, state affiliates of the National Council on Aging. We want to express our strong support for HB 4122, which authorizes the Oregon State Police fingerprint retention program to submit an individual's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Rap Back System to be retained for future usage with on-going evaluation of criminal history.

The state Aging and People with Disabilities/ODHS system is considered a national model for in-home and community-based long term care, providing the most independent living environment for seniors and persons with disabilities through a wide continuum of home, community and institutional care options, but it is in the midst of a serious caregiver workforce shortage, as are most other care provision professions.

Long waits for senior/disability caregivers to begin their caregiving work as they await their criminal background checks can greatly affect the care of senior and/or disability clients seeking assistance within a workforce shortage, and it can also potentially cause caregivers to seek other employment opportunities. The same is true for workers in behavioral health, childcare and other helping professions. If their fingerprints are retained and their criminal history updated in real time, their wait time is significantly shortened, and they can get on with their primary mission of serving seniors and people with disabilities with long term care and health care needs.

We urge strong legislative support for HB 4122 to authorize the retention of caregiver's fingerprints and updated criminal history on the federal level for future usage, shortening waiting periods for criminal background checks to provide for the expanded long term care needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

Please support HB 4122.