



February 7th, 2024

Senator Meek
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1591, Increase Maximum Residents in Adult Foster Homes

Senator Meek,

The Campaign for Seniors & People with Disabilities (the Campaign) is a diverse coalition of organizations representing business, labor, consumers and other concerned Oregonians working together to advocate for these vulnerable populations. On behalf of the Campaign, we would like to express our opposition to SB 1591 to increase the number of residents in Adult Foster Homes. While we appreciate the effort to address the challenges faced by AFH operators, we believe there are more effective ways to improve the quality of care in these settings.

We understand the financial pressures facing AFH operators and the need for comprehensive solutions to address the broken reimbursement system. However, we are concerned that increasing resident limits may not be the most appropriate response to these challenges. Rather than shifting the focus to accommodating more residents, we believe it is essential to prioritize measures that enhance the quality of care and support available in AFHs.

One of the key strengths of the AFH model in Oregon is its emphasis on providing a home-like environment for seniors and people with disabilities. Any changes to resident limits should be carefully evaluated to ensure they align with this fundamental principle. We are concerned that allowing AFHs to care for more than five residents may compromise the personalized, individualized care that is essential to maintaining a home-like atmosphere. While we appreciate the intent behind SB 1591, we believe there are better ways to support AFH operators and improve the quality of care in these

settings. We urge you to consider alternative approaches that prioritize the principles of dignity, autonomy, and community-based care. Our campaign would be happy to engage with you on policy solutions to improve Adult Foster Homes in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that all Oregonians have access to the high-quality long-term care they deserve.

Sincerely,

The Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities