



Monday, February 12, 2024

To: Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health association in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. We advocate on behalf of the more than 69,000 Oregonians with Alzheimer's and their 168,000 family caregivers. I write today to express our support for HB 4129, the Homecare Modernization Act. We believe this legislation is a crucial step toward building a responsive and compassionate homecare system that meets the unique needs of those facing Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

The aging population in Oregon is experiencing a growing prevalence of Alzheimer's and dementia, and it is essential that we invest in a homecare system that can adequately support individuals living with these conditions. HB 4129 addresses this pressing issue by improving access to homecare services, recognizing the importance of supporting families who want to care for their loved ones at home, and bolstering the caregiving workforce that plays a critical role in this endeavor.

Consumers often want to live in their own homes for as long as is feasible, and homecare workers are one option to ensure access to services and supports that make that possible. By ensuring homecare workers receive payment on time, providing enhanced training opportunities, and coordinating care between workers, HB 4129 will improve the overall conditions for homecare workforce and, by doing so, better honor the independence, choice, and dignity of consumers including those with dementia.

Please support HB 4129 and this critical workforce.

Sincerely,

Chris Madden

Director of Public Policy

Alzheimer's Association - Oregon Chapter