

Submitter: Stacy Walker-Kriebaum

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB1591

To whom it may concern- I have owned Kairos Senior Referral & Resources, LLC for 12 years and been helping seniors find appropriate housing for 15 years in both WA and OR. I have seen many changes to the quality of care by corporate owned communities, especially during and post covid. I lean heavily on my adult family homes in Oregon because I trust their care of my clients and because I always know who I am speaking to. Washington has allowed AFH's to take care of 6 residents for years and with special licensing qualifications & increased regulations up to 8. This increases WA state's tax revenue and helps everyone in the community live better. To allow Oregon AFH's to care for 7 residents makes sense both from a financial standpoint for the AFH operators to allow them more opportunity to pay for increased staff and/or increased wages for their caregivers in order to attract the best possible care for our vulnerable and ill seniors. It will also allow our AFH owners the opportunity to accept one or two seniors that are on medicaid or will be spending down to it. The medicaid reimbursement rates are a massive issue in Oregon. I have had to turn away medicaid clients because the rate they pay makes no sense for the AFH operator to accept. When you do the math someone coming in at base might cover a fulltime caregiver with limited chance for the AFH owner to get an exception for a higher rate without much documentation and perseverance. From a business standpoint it could ruin a business. I can tell you firsthand how much the providers I work with care. To have to turn away a client over money is not the way anyone should be forced to do business.