



Date: February 13, 2024
To: Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson,
and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: LeadingAge Oregon
Subject: Oppose HB 4139

LeadingAge Oregon is an association of nonprofit and mission driven organizations dedicated to advancing quality aging services. On behalf of LeadingAge Oregon, we oppose House Bill (“HB”) 4139, eliminating the certificate of need for new hospital and nursing facilities.

Certificates of Need programs assess the necessity of proposed services or facilities. This process was created to ensure that Oregonians avoid overbuilding and reduce the financial burden on the healthcare system.

Eliminating the Certificate of Need program will not resolve the complex challenges facing nursing facility providers and could have unintended negative consequences. The CN program itself needs to be reviewed and evaluated for efficiency and procedural processes before elimination. The proposed bill represents a substantial change in processes, and there hasn't been sufficient analysis or stakeholder engagement to foresee potential outcomes.

Numerous existing nursing facilities have available beds, yet they remain unfilled due to workforce shortages and high operational costs that exceed reimbursement rates. We commend the Committee’s desire to relieve regulatory burdens and enhance access to quality healthcare in Oregon. We would implore the committee to consider opportunities to support the existing dedicated providers engaged in this critical work.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Milligan
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LeadingAge Oregon