



February 14, 2023

Senator Sara Gelser Blouin, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem OR 97301

Submitted via OLIS

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of O4AD, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities. We represent the 16 Area Agencies providing long term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities in our state. Our Medicaid Area Agencies are administering Medicaid long term care services and supports for almost 60% of the state's caseload. We are **opposed** to Senate Bill 1591 which would change the occupancy limits for adult foster homes in Oregon.

While we are acutely aware of the lack of available community-based care options for our vulnerable Oregonians, solutions to this capacity issue need to be thoughtful, prioritize safety and consider quality of life for residents. Adult foster homes are an important option for families and consumers to have in Oregon's continuum of care. As a network, we need to consider how to strengthen and increase this option for older adults. This includes conversations on reimbursement reform, effective training and support for providers and consumer needs. However, prior to the introduction of SB 1591, these conversations have not occurred and have not involved stakeholders, case managers, or consumers.

Meeting the needs of our older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon should prioritize independence, dignity, choice and safety. O4AD is ready to engage in that conversation but SB 1591 is not the right solution to meet these challenges and goals.

We ask that these conversations begin to find solutions to increase community base care capacity. However we ask that SB 1591 does not proceed in the 2024 session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker
O4AD