



Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing

January 30, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97302

Re: OHCA Supports SB 130

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents long term care providers including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and memory care-endorsed facilities, as well as licensed in-home care agencies. Our mission is to promote high-quality care for older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon.

OHCA supports Senate Bill (SB) 130 and the goal of ensuring Oregon has a sufficient number of qualified Medicaid case managers and Adult Protective Service (APS) workers. This workforce is a critical component of our system of care, without which we cannot appropriately serve all consumers and providers of Medicaid long term services and supports. Like many parts of the health and human services continuum, we understand that the state faces challenges in recruiting and retaining enough Medicaid case managers to meet the demand for services. Just like many long term care providers, we empathize with case managers and APS workers who must meet extensive state and federal regulations with limited resources.

Our members rely on trained case managers to ensure prospective and current residents or clients are appropriately assessed and re-assessed for Medicaid services and eligibility determinations. These functions are vital to the effective provision of care. However, often times our members experience challenges in timeliness and accuracy of assessments and payments, as well as responsiveness to inquiries. SB 130 is an important step toward addressing recruitment and retention of case managers and APS workers and resolving these challenges.

We would respectfully request clarifications to the bill:

1. Under Section 1, which outlines the task force's composition, we would ask for an amendment to (g) that allows for a provider or ***“a representative of a provider of Medicaid-funded long term care services”*** to serve on the task force. This change is important because there are numerous types of licensed settings and agencies that provide Medicaid-funded long term care services, including assisted living facilities, nursing facilities, and in-home care agencies. Including language in the bill that allows for a representative of providers would give the Governor the needed flexibility to appoint a task force member from OHCA or another provider trade association. Associations like ours can effectively represent a cross-section of long term care providers and provide a holistic perspective on the nexus between providers and case managers.
2. Under Section 1, subsection (3) of the measure that outlines the task force's duties, we would seek additional clarity on what some of the duties mean. For instance, it states the task force shall examine “reimbursement rates and wages.” What does this mean and for whom?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on SB 130 and urge your support of this measure with the additional clarifications outlined above.

Sincerely,

Libby Batlan

Senior Vice President of Government Relations

Oregon Health Care Association