



**O R E G O N**  
**LONG-TERM CARE**  
**OMBUDSMAN**

**Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

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February 11, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 794

Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Committee:

The Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) program's mission is to protect individual rights, enhance quality of life, improve care, and promote dignity of residents living in Oregon's licensed long-term care facilities.

On behalf of the Oregonians who live in and receive care in Oregon's nursing homes, assisted living, residential care facilities, memory care communities, and adult foster care homes, the LTCO program supports SB 794.

SB 794 proposes to expand the authorities of the Oregon Public Guardian program to allow the program the ability to serve individuals in need of decision-making supports with alternatives before guardianship is needed. For some residents or prospective residents of long-term care settings, these type of decision-making supports can ensure an individual will be connected to appropriate care services. Currently, individuals who could benefit from supports before guardianship is needed must generally have a family member who can serve in such a role. But for those individuals without any family or the resources to pay for another to help, the public guardian program will be the most ideal program to provide these important supports.

Thank you for considering support for SB 794.

Sincerely,

Fred Steele, MPH, JD  
State Long Term Care Ombudsman