

House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services **Testimony in Support of HB 2560** Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations February 11, 2025

AARP is pleased to support HB 2560. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

Adults foster homes play a crucial role in allowing Oregonians to live in home and community based settings. One of the key strengths of the Adult Foster Home model in Oregon is the emphasis on providing a home-like environment for serving five or fewer older individuals or younger adults with disabilities. It is because of the importance of creating home-like settings that in the past, including most recently as 2024, AARP has joined other organizations in opposing legislative efforts to increase the number of residents who can reside in an adult foster home. We believe the limited size in a home ensures residential autonomy, privacy, and adequate individual and shared space for all members of the household.

However, at the same time we opposed efforts to expand the number of residents, we testified then and are pleased to add our voice today that we must address the serious financial challenge that adult foster homes are facing in our state. And the best way to do that is to provide an appropriate reimbursement rate to meet the level of need and services required. HB 2560 is a critical step to modernize this system and update an outdated reimbursement rate.

HB 2560 will continue to help us to retain a robust and stable adult foster home provider network. We urge this Committee to pass HB 2560 and fund this important service for some of the most vulnerable Oregonians.