

Peggy Malloy (Bridge Meadows Redmond Resident Elder)

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing and Development in support of SB 229

February 10th 2025

My name is Peggy Malloy, and I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 229 in support of Bridge Meadows. I live at Bridge Meadows located in Redmond. I cared for my Mom for 12 years near Portland where I lived since 1958 before she passed. I started looking on-line for senior housing and I found the Bridge Meadows site. There was this one in Redmond which has over 350 days of sunshine annually and I really missed the sun. I found the concept of Bridge Meadows appealing with it being a senior facility as well as housing for foster families. Being a grandmother of 10, I love kids and was intrigued with this concept.

The idea here is to have children who often have never known the warmth of a grandparent, learn what security that relationship may bring. Elders who may have never known the special love of grandchildren, share their joys and their tears and both learn from each other.

I had not lived here very long when one day I was just sitting out in the garden with the sun shining on my face, and a youngster, about 10 years old, came over and sat down by me. He had a book and a drawing tablet. First, he thumbed through the book, chatting about the pictures, then he showed me things he had drawn. I realized in that short time that this is the concept Bridge Meadows is hoping to create: an environment of intergenerational community living. It is what we elders need which is to feel needed as well as the love and joy children provide. Many of the foster kids have never lived in a beautiful, safe environment that includes many special things just because we care about them and will be there for them. Bridge Meadows provides lots of classes and activities to enjoy as a community including dinners and parties in a fun, healthy and safe environment.

I love the activities provided for us at Bridge Meadows, such as our raised garden beds. This last season, our gardens were awesome! We provided lots of fresh veggies for the Happiness Hour dinners we have every other Wednesday. We canned vegetables and all learned from each other. We hope to try some new plants this year and pray Mr. Weather will work well with us again!

The Bridge Meadows concept provides a lovely community for so many folks who now have the opportunity to live on their own safely, with health, happiness, and new friends, sharing all that is offered with the foster families. We always appreciate the funding needed to be successful. Thank you.