



Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing

February 27, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97302

Re: OHCA Supports HB 3224

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents more than 90 percent of long term care providers across the state. Our members include post-acute care, long term care, assisted living, residential care, and memory care communities, as well as in-home care agencies. We are deeply committed to serving all older adults and people with disabilities in need of long term services and supports, as well as those caregivers and clinical staff who care for them and are users of the state's background check system.

Oregon requires a variety of background checks for individuals working with vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and those with disabilities. These checks often overlap and are sometimes redundant, creating unnecessary burdens. The efficiency of background checks is critical to direct caregivers employed in Home and Community Based Care settings who serve Oregon's vulnerable seniors. The delays in background checks cause applicants to reconsider waiting 30-60 days for a job in caregiving, and the re-check delays are incredibly problematic resulting in care lags for those who rely on their caregivers most.

We are supportive of HB 3224 which would require that ODHS conduct a thorough review of existing background check requirements and provide recommendations that could streamline and modernize Oregon's background check system while continuing to ensure and optimize consumer safety. It was recently shared with us that the state's Background Check Unit has more than 100 different background checks today, with different criteria, time frames, and who they are applicable to. For example, a person may be approved for one check and denied for another, and portability is limited.

HB 3224, alongside HB 3239 which funds implementation of the Rap Back program that would greatly improve efficiencies in our current system, are both critical steps in doing so this session.

We urge the committee's support of House Bill 3224.

Sincerely,
Meredith Coba
Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
Oregon Health Care Association