



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

February 21, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 228 – Right to form Family Councils at
certain long-term care facilities

As members of the Oregon Residential Ombudsman Public Guardian Advisory Board, we are writing in strong support of SB 228, a bill that creates the right to form family councils at certain long-term care facilities.

ROPGAB oversees the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) including its programs of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman (RFO), the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and the Oregon Public Guardian (OPG). The statutory directives for the Board also include advising the legislative Assembly on issues related to the agency, its programs, and the Oregonians served by the agency. The ROPGAB Board members represent decades of experience in geriatrics, mental health care, brain injury, long-term care, elder law, guardianship, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, and as caregivers ourselves.

Support of SB 228 insures that:

- Family Councils in other long-term care settings are required and help bring issues to the attention of staff and management.
- Currently, residents and their families in memory care settings do not have the ability to form a family council to discuss issues important to residents and their family members.
- This bill would require facilities to inform, listen to and respond to issues raised during the family council meetings as well as ensure residents and their families are informed of other options available to them for issue resolution such as the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- There is no increase in funding associated with this bill.

We urge you to pass SB 228 in this legislative session and are available for testimony or additional information if needed. Thank you for considering this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams
ROPGAB Board Chair

**Residential Ombudsman &
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Advisory Board**

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Bend

The Residential Ombudsman & Public Guardian Advisory Board monitors the agency, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and advises the Governor and Legislature pursuant to ORS 441.416-418. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and four by the Legislative Leadership.