

Submitter: Beth Mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

As someone working for a nonprofit dedicated to older adults, I see every day how the lack of coordinated support affects individuals, families, and entire communities. Too many Oregonians struggle to access essential resources like affordable housing, in-home care, transportation, healthcare, opportunities to stay engaged, and so much more. These challenges don't just impact older adults—they put immense strain on families, caregivers, and the services we all rely on. Without a plan, these issues will only worsen as our population changes, leaving more people vulnerable and unprepared.

We need a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging to bring people together, take action, and ensure that all Oregonians, now and in the future, have the support they need to live with dignity and security. HB 3497 is our opportunity to make this happen. This isn't just policy—it's about real people, our parents, grandparents, neighbors, and ultimately, our own futures. If we don't act now, we are failing the generations who built our communities and those who will inherit them.

Oregon cannot afford to wait any longer. We need leadership, collaboration, and a clear roadmap to create a future where people of all ages can thrive. I urge the Legislature to pass HB 3497 and take this critical step toward a stronger, more inclusive Oregon for everyone.