

Submitter: Laura Heller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

I am writing in full support of HB 3497 to prepare Oregon for our rapidly aging populations. As a geriatric social worker, I see the daily impact of Oregon's lack of funding, housing, caregivers, infrastructure, and services to and for our older community members. There is much expertise and experience among our elders, aging services professionals and providers to support the planning and implementation of a comprehensive framework, but we must start with creating the Shared Future Task Force that can lead with compassion, knowledge, understanding and representation. As a state, we must take action now to address the critical issues associated with our aging population. We owe this to our elders who have helped to build our communities, businesses, economy, and much more.

Thank you