



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Residential Ombudsman &
Public Guardian
Advisory Board**

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February 26, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 739 - Changes oversight laws for certain types of long-term care facilities

As members of the Oregon Residential Ombudsman and Public Guardian Advisory Board (ROPGAB), we are writing in strong support of SB 739, which modifies the requirements for regulatory oversight of residential care facilities.

The ROPGAB oversees and advises 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, palliative care, mental health care, brain injury, long-term care, elder law, guardianship, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, and as caregivers ourselves.

We believe the provisions of SB 739 are vital to protecting some of the most vulnerable Oregonians living in residential settings. This Act will:

- Prohibit exceptions to statutory licensing requirements for residential care facilities.
- Strengthen the licensing requirements of new residential care facilities and of memory care facility operators.
- Require DHS to conduct regular inspections of new residential care facilities.

Many of the provisions in SB 739 are due in part to the avoidable death of a senior Oregonian at a licensed care facility and the resulting investigation. ROPGAB Board members urge you to pass SB 739 in this legislative session and are available for testimony or additional information if needed.

Thank you for considering these vital services.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams
ROPGAB Board Chair

Board Members:

Mark Williams,
Chair

Eugene

Melanie St. John,
Vice-Chair

Portland

Diana Allen
Corvallis

Daniel Alrick
Ashland

Ron Glaus
Salem

Roberta Janssen
Tigard

Dwight Mowry
Ontario

Sherry Stock
Molalla

J.W. Terry
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.