

Submitter: Gerald Cohen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong support for HB 3497. My entire adult career of 50 years has been engaged on policy and advocacy issues that address aging (something we all hope to do given the alternative!). Since 2007, I have been delighted to engage in the internationally recognized work promoting "age-friendly" communities; Portland being the FIRST city in the USA recognized as such by the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 2010, AARP has partnered with the WHO in promoting USA communities and States to embrace systematic and coordinated efforts to plan for address age-friendly communities, or as some of prefer to say, "communities and states for all ages and abilities"!

I refer you to read the following read the following research AARP commissioned by The Economist (with Oregon-specific data as well).

https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/econ/2020/longevity-economy-outlook-oregon.doi.10.26419-2Fint.00044.038.pdf

As one who is now labeled "aged" in my 70s, I share like many of my cohorts the passion and purpose to continue to contribute to a vibrant community and state. But to be effective, we need to address planning and coordination across all our public and private sectors. There is no "silver tsunami", but a series of waves over many years and to embrace the values and opportunities we as Oregonians share.

I appreciate your strong embrace of and support for this bill and effort.

Thanks you,

Gerald Cohen, JD, MPA