



March 4, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 5020

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Campos and Rep. Valderrama and members of the committee,

On behalf of Oregon Health & Science University and OHSU Health, I am pleased to offer support for House Bill 5020 and the budget for the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The work of the agency benefits people across our state and the patients OHSU's providers see every day.

In particular, the Oregon Public Guardian needs continued funding to ensure public guardians are available to support safe discharges of patients with dementia who are medically ready to leave Oregon hospitals but have no family, friends, or funding to provide guardianship for safe community placement. These are the most vulnerable individuals who need support in decision making and finding the best placement. Without sufficient public guardians, these patients will remain in the hospital, taking acute care hospital beds and causing people needing acute care to remain in the emergency department or in a small hospital, awaiting much needed surgeries or treatments.

I urge your support for House Bill 5020 and the valuable programs of the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Sincerely,

Connie Amos, M.S.
Senior Director of Post Acute Care
Oregon Health & Science University