

Submitter: Scott McKay
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

I have been involved with senior issues for over 35 years: 20 years as a Wasco County Commissioner, 15 years as the Director of the Mid-Columbia Senior Center, and I am currently working part-time as a community liaison for Circles of Care which matches volunteers with older adults to provide friendly visits and transportation.

I have seen first-hand the daily impact older adults make in their communities and also the challenges many older adults face: finding affordable and accessible housing, a home care professional, transportation, and age friendly businesses.

I believe HB 3497 is an important step towards developing a Multi-Sector Plan on Aging that will address those challenges by providing a comprehensive framework for coordination and collaboration among state agencies, local government, non-profits and the private sector. In my experience I have seen many plans developed within a state or local agency but not in coordination with agencies and organizations outside of their own.

I am seventy-seven and very fortunate: my wife and I are still living independently, we are both working part-time in meaningful work, have a network of social connections, and physically and cognitively, we are doing okay.

I anticipate living many more years, and as I grow older, I hope the benefits from Oregon's Multi-Sector Plan on Aging will be available—which was initiated with the passage of HB 3497.

Thank you for your consideration.