

Submitter: Vani Kapur

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

My name is Vani Kapur and I am the director of strategic initiatives at AGE+. On behalf of all the voices that I have engaged with for the past 2.5 years seeking to advocate for the multi-sector plan on aging, I want to thank Chair Hartman and this committee for bringing HB 3497 to the forefront. The taskforce this HB 3497 seeks to establish will be a confluence point, where all the findings from our listening sessions, community engagement, businesses as well as our research can be used as a baseline - to identify and prioritize initiatives that will help Oregonians live and age in their community. At the Oregon Historical Society, there is a quote in their exhibit by washat leader Wilson Wewa in Warm Springs, stating with passion, "we are not a vanishing race, we are still here." Our older adult population is still here, and we must craft a plan—grounded in facts—to support older Oregonians. By intentionally including them in all parts of our communities, we are making Oregon better for all generations. I humbly thank you for your work and am grateful for your consideration.