

Submitter:

Kristen McCall

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB228

I am an attorney representing families whose loved ones have been injured by neglect or abuse in long term care facilities. Consistently, the families of victims I represent regret what they didn't know about their loved ones' rights and vulnerabilities and about the care facility's services, responsibilities and oversight. Having Independent Family Counsels would empower families to be able to protect and prevent abuse and neglect by connecting with other families who are going through the same thing. Independent Family Counsels would reduce the strain on public resources like the LTC Ombudsmen and the DHS licensing -- resources that are already drowning in unmet public needs. Lines of communication among families would increase access to accurate information and support that will save lives, improve the quality of care and connect Oregonians who are increasingly isolated. Every family I represent is scared and feels alone, having to make what we all know is one of the hardest choices in family -- to move a loved one into residential care. With the support of other families, the quality of Oregonian's lives and livelihoods will improve. Please support the creation of Independent Family Counsels in Oregon.