

Submitter: Debra Boggis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3497

As a citizen of Oregon who has worked with older adults in medical settings and the community for my entire career, I ask for your support of HB3497 that will create a task force to develop a Multi-sector Plan for Aging.

As you are likely aware, the older adult population is increasing at an astounding rate nationally and in Oregon. I have personally witnessed this trend and its alarming impact on older adults – in urban but especially in rural communities including economic hardship, lack of affordable housing, risk of homelessness and significant challenges to obtain timely and adequate health care.

HB3497 establishes the Shared Future Oregon Task Force comprised of leaders from local government, and those private, non-profit and philanthropic entities that are positioned well to represent older adults and collaborate with statewide interests. The task force will focus on the areas of housing, overall health, paid and unpaid caregiving, workforce, and economic vitality for our older population.

Oregon has the opportunity to become the national leader in aging initiatives. Without support for the aging population, younger population generations will find it increasingly difficult to care for their aging loved ones while trying to navigate social, economic and health challenges of their own. Let us begin the process to prepare for this shift in demographics. I strongly urge you to support HB3497 that creates a task force to study the issue and make recommendations, culminating in a Multi-sector Plan for Aging to be delivered by December 2026.