



March 6, 2025

To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for HB 3497

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 37 years. We were founded to address the lack of housing for farm workers and while that is a still primary focus, we also serve the housing needs of many seniors through our manufactured Housing Cooperative Development Center (MHCDC). The MHCDC works with residents to help them buy their community and operate it a reticent-owned cooperative (ROC). To date, we have completed 28 conversions of 200 units housing more than 4000 people. Many of these are senior communities.

CASA is concerned with the lack of infrastructure to support seniors as they age. We believe that by developing a multi sector plan for Aging, we can take the first step towards fixing the fragmented system that currently exists.

The experiences of other states suggest that developing a statewide aging plan provides accountability. Ensuring the collection and proper crunching of data, we can develop a strategy to ensure positive outcome. As more seniors are aging into poverty with inadequate social supports, coupled with an increasing uncertainty of the federal government to support our aging population, this plan will become more essential to protecting the seniors of Oregon.

We urge the development of this Taskforce to develop a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging .CASA urges you to pass HB 3497. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hainley".

Peter Hainley  
Executive Director