



Senate Committee on Human Services
Testimony in Support of SB 34 -1 Amendments
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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

AARP strongly supports SB 34 -1 Amendments. SB 34 -1 Amendments require multiple different data and policy analyses into ownership and financial transparency, requiring the state to study and report out on whether it has sufficient transparency and what additional tools, resources, and statutory authority it would need to handle the findings of its studies.

These efforts align with transparency concepts that AARP supports and the bill has a strong focus on exploring what the state can do that would improve the amount and accessibility of information being made available to the public.

Transparency is critically important to families making decisions about where their loved ones reside. As Sen. Patterson testified, residents in long-term care facilities are often the most vulnerable Oregonians and families should be fully equipped with information that they believe is important.

There are many reasons why a full, clear, and constant view into the workings of nursing homes is important, especially considering the large role nursing homes play in long-term services and supports. Nationwide, nursing homes provide a wide range of services to more than 1.2 million people annually, usually serving individuals with greater needs than those in assisted living or other residential settings. Most of this care is funded through taxpayer dollars, estimated by the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) to be approximately \$80 billion per year.

Presently, state, the federal government and the general public do not have enough information to fully grasp who owns and operates nursing homes and what they are doing with the taxpayer dollars they receive.

Information is also lacking on the precise measurements of the quality of care they are providing, staffing levels for direct care staff and the leadership positions that are supposed to run the nursing homes.

Without a clear understanding and insight into a nursing home's provision and quality of services, a comprehensive method to determine effectiveness of nursing homes in providing high quality care for residents while optimizing the value for all stakeholders, including taxpayers, cannot be developed.

Greater nursing home transparency can help consumers, their families (especially family caregivers), state and federal nursing home regulators, advocates and legislators understand how nursing homes are operating including how they are funding the care they are responsible for providing residents.

This bill is a reasonable step forward to provide transparency to Oregonians in one place, allowing family and loved ones to make informed decisions and consider the information that they believe is critical. We urge this Committee to adopt the -1 Amendments and pass SB 34.