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March 13, 2025

To: Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2573

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Brennon Hand, and I am a Regional RN for The Springs Living, an organization with 14 senior living communities in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2573. In addition to working directly with seniors in assisted living and memory care settings for 15 years, I am a member of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

I strongly support HB 2573 because it ensures the continuation of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program and the work of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Council. As a member of the council, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role it plays in improving emergency medical response for seniors in long-term care and residential care facilities. This program fosters innovative, community-based solutions that enhance emergency care while promoting efficiency and reducing unnecessary strain on our hospitals and emergency services. Importantly, the council operates entirely on a volunteer basis, meaning it provides valuable oversight and recommendations without any additional burden on taxpayers. By extending the program, HB 2573 will help ensure that Oregon's aging population continues to receive high-quality, well-coordinated emergency medical services.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 2573 and uphold the essential work of the council. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Brennon Hand, RN/BSN