



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Residential Ombudsman & Public Guardian Advisory Board

830 D Street NE

Salem, OR 97301-1212

Toll Free: 1-800-522-2602

Phone: 503-378-6533

Fax: 503-373-0852

TTY 711

ltco.info@rights.oregon.gov

www.oltco.org

March 21, 2025

To: The Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: SB 1188 Support

As members of the Oregon Residential Ombudsman Public Guardian Advisory Board, (ROPGAB) we are writing in strong support of SB 1188, an Act that directs the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to make grants to help people who are leaving a hospital obtain guardianship services.

ROPGAB oversees the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) including its programs of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman (RFO), the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and the Oregon Public Guardian (OPG). The statutory directives for the Board also include advising the legislative Assembly on issues related to the agency, its programs, and the Oregonians served by the agency. The ROPGAB Board members represent decades of experience in geriatrics, mental health care, brain injury, long-term care, elder law, guardianship, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, and as caregivers ourselves.

We support SB 1188:

- Members of the Board have witnessed, either personally or professionally, individuals willing to act as a guardian for a friend or family member but who lack the financial resources needed to obtain a legal guardianship in Oregon (legal fees can range from \$2-10,000).
- This act provides much needed funds for local community resources or county guardianship programs to take on guardianship for incapacitated individuals closer to their home settings.
- This act provides funds for family members who cannot afford the legal fees to act as guardian for an incapacitated person.
- Many times, that incapacitated person can fall through the social services cracks if they don't qualify for public guardianship, or if OPG does not have the capacity to take on their case or the person ends up in a hospital setting long term if they cannot be safely discharged.
- This Act can provide solutions to prevent these issues from arising and take the burden off hospitals, social service agencies and more.

We urge you to support SB 1188 in this legislative session and are available for testimony or additional information if needed. We thank you for considering these vital services for the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams

ROPGAB Board Chair

Board Members:

Mark Williams,

Chair

Eugene

Melanie St. John,

Vice-Chair

Portland

Diana Allen

Corvallis

Daniel Alrick

Ashland

Ron Glaus

Salem

Roberta Janssen

Tigard

Dwight Mowry

Ontario

Sherry Stock

Molalla

J.W. Terry

Bend

The Residential Ombudsman & Public Guardian Advisory Board monitors the agency, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and advises the Governor and Legislature pursuant to ORS 441.416-418. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and four by the Legislative Leadership.