

3/29/2025

Dear Senator Gelser Blouin and the Senate Committee on Human Services,

As advocates for people residing in Oregon LTC facilities, and as advocates specifically interested in improving the safety of residents and the quality of care they receive, we ask you to support SB 739.

It is essential that dangerous conditions are promptly investigated by DHS and that residents and their families are notified when DHS determines that neglect or abuse has occurred or there are safety risks to residents. New facilities should be actively vetted by the State of Oregon before they are allowed to continue to operate with the imprimatur of State approval. Further, administrators of facilities should be qualified to manage the complexities of running a LTC facility and there needs to be reporting to DHS when an administrator is absent from the facility or a new administrator steps in. These changes are modest and do not address all the problems regarding long term care in Oregon but they are each common-sense measures to protect Oregon seniors.

We are aware some spokespersons for the LTC industry oppose portions of SB739. With the average cost of care in Skilled Nursing \$10,000/month and the average cost of care at Assisted Living or Residential Care \$6,000/month - it seems the owners of these facilities should have plentiful resources to increase staff and provide safe, responsible care for our Oregon elders.

We ask you to support SB 739 with the following suggested revisions.

TRANSPARENCY -

When there is a substantiated finding of neglect, abuse, or other safety risk to residents, the facility should be required to immediately and directly notify and provide the summary report - to residents, their family contact and personal representatives, and to prospective residents.

License violations and restrictions should also be posted in a highly visible location at the facility.

There should also be a link on the LTC facility webpage that lands directly on the facility's violations report on the ODHS licensing web page. <https://ltclicensing.oregon.gov/Facilities>

TIMELY INVESTIGATION- This bill specifies DHS must investigate death or serious injury to a resident within 24 hours, and all other complaints without undue delay. This is critical to the safety of residents. Undue delay should be defined; perhaps within 5 working days.

ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS- This bill specifies necessary qualifications along with requirements for mentoring and support for newly licensed and inexperienced memory care facilities. This is essential to the safety and wellbeing of residents.

ADMINISTRATOR ABSENCE or CHANGE - Reporting absence to ODHS, and reporting change in administrator to ODHS and to residents and their families is necessary.

NEW LICENSEE INSPECTIONS - Unannounced, in person inspection for new licensees between 3 and 6 months of first accepting residents is necessary. We would prefer to see this visit occur at 3 months.

Please support SB739 as written with suggested revisions included.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Cynthia D'Angiolillo RN
Melissa Fisher
Jewel J. Nelson

Lara C. Johnson, JD
Jenny Abeling
Judith Smith