

Submitter: Shannon Carskadon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2956

I strongly support increasing the capacity of Adult Foster Homes in the state of Oregon for several reasons.

1.) My own mother had a stroke in 2010 and had been a 6th resident at my home from 2010 until 2020. She, and my other residents, continued to receive exceptional care by me, my husband, and hired caregivers. She developed wonderful friendships with other residents and their families too. This is the true meaning of a family setting, and most families are not limited to 5 people.

2.) Having been licensed for 31 years, I can attest that the population of my home varies widely. It is common to have a home bound patient, a hospice patient, a completely coherent patient, an advanced dementia patient, and a patient who is gone most of the day with family or friends. What do these 5 people have in common - to socialize and spend time together? Not very much, usually. Adding another resident or two to the mix actually IMPROVES quality of life, social opportunity, and a fun, family feeling, giving rise to more opportunities for meaningful relationships, exposure to other's culture, and a sense of comradery. You most likely have more than 4 friends. I do. I think my residents would like to also.

3.) Even with a staffing ratio of 1 caregiver to 7 residents, we would still be far and above the best caregiver ratio in the state for any type of facility. We still would have to be able to meet all the residents needs and be able to evacuate on time. This proposition doesn't change the stringent rules of providing care.

4.) If the cost of care is spread out over 7 residents, vs 5, we are able to offer a lower price to the consumer, which is critical, for both Medicaid and private pay residents.

I would like to note the proposed pilot program will require 2 caregivers to provide service to 7 residents; this stipulation will actually INCREASE care costs for the consumer/resident. To be compliant, staff levels would have to increase by at least 4 full time employees in the home, in order to cover the additional 168 hours weekly. For this reason, I will not be applying to the pilot program, even though I have an excellent 31 year reputation. However, I think that providers who are willing and able, should have the opportunity. I would hope a successful pilot program will result in a rule change and this staffing stipulation can be reassessed.

I am happy to answer any and all questions and happy to give tours of what a warm,

welcoming adult foster home looks and feels like.

Sincerely,

Shannon Carskadon

Forest Grove

Our first home was licensed in 1994. Our second home in 2013.