



INDEPENDENT ADULT CARE HOME ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2025

Committee House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

HB 2956 – Increasing Maximum Residents in Adult Foster Homes

I am Petronella Donovan, representing the Independent Adult Care Homes Association. We strongly support HB 2956 and its proposed amendment, which would establish a pilot program allowing the number of residents in Adult Foster Homes (AFHs) to increase from five to seven. This initiative is a necessary and forward-thinking step toward addressing the growing demand for senior care while ensuring the sustainability of AFHs.

The need for solutions is urgent. In 2007, Oregon had over 3,000 adult foster homes, but today, that number has dwindled to approximately 1,300. Many AFH operators struggle financially, making it difficult to sustain high-quality care. Increasing the resident limit through a controlled pilot program is one way to help stabilize these homes while still maintaining necessary safeguards, including enhanced staffing requirements and room occupancy standards.

Oregon has long been a leader in home and community-based care, and adapting our policies to meet current and future needs is essential. Increasing AFH capacity can help more seniors and individuals with disabilities remain in home-like settings rather than institutional care. This expansion aligns with the original intent of the AFH model—providing compassionate, community-based care—while allowing providers to continue their essential work.

We recognize concerns about potential impacts on care quality, but rather than opposing progress, we believe in working collaboratively to strengthen safeguards and oversight. The pilot program offers an opportunity to study the effects of this policy change, gather data, and ensure that AFHs continue to meet the highest standards of care. Furthermore, this bill can serve as a stepping stone for broader conversations about sustainable funding and support for AFH operators, including the need for reimbursement rate increases.

We urge the House Human Services Committee to support HB 2956 and move forward with this much-needed pilot project. By taking a balanced and proactive approach, we can ensure that AFHs remain a viable and high-quality option for Oregon's aging population.