



Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations

Testimony in support of SB 5526

Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

April 3, 2025

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. Here in Oregon we advocate for close to 500,000 members with a broad focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities and very specifically around older Oregonians receiving long term services and supports.

While we know that most Oregonians want to remain in community and age in place, that is not possible for some of our most vulnerable older Oregonians and they must rely on long term supports and services, including residing in long term care facilities.

The role of the state is to make sure we not only honor independence, choice, dignity, autonomy and privacy of Oregonians living in long term care facilities, we need to fully support systems that provide critical safeguards and protections.

We are here today to support fully funding the budget for the Department of Human Services, Aging and People with Disabilities program. Specifically, we want to focus on HB 2560, a restructure to the Adult Foster Home rate methodology, which was referenced in APD's presentation and is part of the Governor's Recommended Budget.

HB 2560 will update the payment methodology to be based on the acuity of each resident, rather than relying on "rate exceptions." The current methodology has created serious financial challenges to our adult foster home community in that state. That is why AARP testified in strong support of HB 2560 when it was heard in the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services and why we are pleased that it passed out unanimously and has been referred to Ways & Means. We very much hope this subcommittee will have a chance to consider HB 2560 and fund this important service for some of the most vulnerable Oregonians.