



April 14, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez,

On behalf of Bridge Meadows, I write to express our strong and unequivocal support for **House Bill 3497, which establishes a visionary and much-needed Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MSPA) in Oregon**. As the Executive Director of Bridge Meadows—intergenerational communities that support youth formerly in foster care, adoptive families, and elders—we see daily the critical importance of developing comprehensive, inclusive, and forward-thinking strategies to meet the evolving needs of Oregon’s aging population.

Oregon stands at a pivotal juncture. By 2030, more than one in five Oregonians will be 65 or older. This demographic shift presents both profound challenges and extraordinary opportunities. HB 3497 answers this moment with the clarity and commitment it demands—uniting government agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, and advocates in a collaborative planning effort that reflects the diversity and dignity of all Oregonians.

Aging well is not solely a matter of health care or housing; it is a multifaceted issue that intersects with transportation, social connection, workforce development, and economic equity. The MSPA framework proposed in HB 3497 acknowledges this complexity and seeks to align systems in a way that ensures older adults can thrive in their communities of choice. It emphasizes equity, cultural responsiveness, and inclusivity—principles that mirror the very foundation of Bridge Meadows’ mission.

Every day, we witness the positive ripple effects of supporting elders as vital contributors to family and community life. In our intergenerational housing model, older adults not only receive the support they need to age with purpose and dignity but also become mentors, caregivers, and anchors for the younger generations. A robust MSPA will help scale such innovations across the state, encouraging creative solutions and strategic investments that uplift all Oregonians.

We urge you to fully fund and champion HB 3497. The time is now to build a resilient and compassionate Oregon that honors its older citizens not as a challenge to be

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managed, but as a powerful resource to be embraced. This bill is more than policy—it is a statement of our collective values and vision for the future.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the profound importance of planning for aging in a way that leaves no one behind.

Respectfully,

Derenda Schubert, PhD

Executive Director

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