



***Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing***

May 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97302

***Re: SB 228A, Establishment of Family Councils in Memory Care-Endorsed Communities***

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf and Nguyen, and members of the committee,

Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents long term care providers including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and memory care-endorsed facilities, as well as licensed in-home care agencies. Our mission is to promote high-quality care for older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon.

OHCA is neutral on SB 228A and is deeply appreciative of the significant work and discussion of various stakeholders, including family members themselves and the Long Term Care Ombudsman. This work led to the consensus amendments that were adopted in the Senate Human Services Committee on April 10<sup>th</sup> and the A-engrossed version before you today.

Oregon has long been a national leader in long term care, and that success has been anchored by a focus on person-centered care, strong staffing and quality standards, and access to home and community-based services for Medicaid beneficiaries. Our members value and prioritize the rights, preferences, and choices of residents living in licensed settings and work to engage their loved ones as appropriate and desired by the resident through the course of their care.

Family councils are not a new concept. Many family councils exist in facilities across the state today and represent valuable collaborations between facility administration, care staff, and residents and their representatives.

SB 228A largely aligns the requirements for family councils for nursing facilities and narrows its application to memory care-endorsed facilities, where family councils often take on enhanced importance since many residents in these settings have legal representatives who are empowered to make decisions about their care and life in the facility for them. It establishes the

formation of a family council as a resident right and affords it certain protections under state law. It also outlines how a facility must engage with the council if one exists at a facility while ensuring residents and facilities maintain the appropriate flexibility and discretion.

Again, we appreciate the bill's proponent's willingness to work with us on changes to the bill and were pleased to be able to reach consensus.

Sincerely,

Libby Batlan

Senior Vice President of Government Relations

Oregon Health Care Association