

Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE • DIGNITY

AARP Oregon

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities

Brain Injury Association of Oregon

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

Elders in Action Commission

Multnomah County Disability Services Advisory Council

O4AD (Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities)

Central Oregon Council on Aging

Clackamas County Social Services

Community Action Program East Central Oregon

Community Action Team

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon

Douglas County Senior & Disability Services

Grant County Seniors

Harney County Senior & Community Services Center

Klamath Basin Senior Citizens Council

Lake County Seniors

Lane Council of Governments – Senior and Disabled Services

Malheur Council on Aging

Mid-Columbia Council of Governments

Multnomah County Aging & Disability Services

NorthWest Senior & Disability Services

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments – Senior & Disability Services

Rogue Valley Council of Governments – Senior & Disabled Services

South Coast Business Employment Corp. Area Agency on Aging

Washington County Department of Disability, Aging & Veteran Services

Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans

Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services

Oregon Health Care Association

Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens

Save Oregon Seniors

Service Employees International Union

United Seniors of Oregon

November 7, 2008

Dear Oregon legislator,

In the coming legislative session, the way Oregon cares for its seniors and people with disabilities will be among the many questions you face.

We know that 2009 will present tough and tight budgeting challenges and choices for you and your colleagues. We also know there's no better time and opportunity to develop meaningful, cost-effective solutions to these challenges, including those facing Oregon's long-term care system.

To that end, the enclosed newspaper article may be instructive. Ohio recently tried to address this similar issue. Confronted with sort of budget squeeze we now face, Ohio's leaders responded with a pennywise and a pound-foolish approach to long-term care that ultimately cost the state more money than its existing system and left hundreds of its most vulnerable citizens without appropriate care. That's a real tragedy.

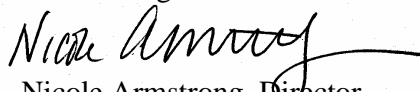
Oregon cannot afford to repeat Ohio's mistakes, which is why we encourage you to build your awareness about this issue. Funding Oregon's long-term care system at necessary levels not only fulfills the independence, choice and dignity that Oregon law promises to provide for its seniors and people with disabilities, but also makes wise use of limited state funding and taxpayer dollars. It is this spirit of innovation that originally created "Oregon's Way" of long-term care.

Thank you in advance for reading this article and we look very forward to working cooperatively with you in 2009. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with any questions or information we can provide.

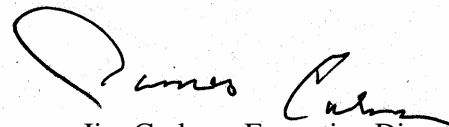
Sincerely,



Jerry Cohen, State Director
AARP Oregon



Nicole Armstrong, Director
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Jim Carlson, Executive Director
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Arthur Towers, Political Director
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