

Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

I N D E P E N D E N C E • C H O I C E • D I G N I T Y

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

April 1, 2009

Submitted testimony on HB 2391 before the House Committee on Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss elements of Oregon's long-term care continuum and system with you today.

Let us first explain who and what the Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities is. We're a diverse alliance of senior and disability organizations representing business, consumers, labor and other concerned Oregonians who've come together to help showcase the tremendous model of home and community-based care services that makes Oregon unique. We believe we must protect and invest in this efficient and cost-saving system and ensure we fulfill the promise of Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 410 to provide independence, choice and dignity to Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities.

The Campaign supports the core concepts embodied in HB 2391 as its provisions are among our priorities. The bill initiates an important conversation about the value of providing non-Medicaid services for vulnerable Oregonians. It has been our philosophy that we must first preserve what we have and know works well. But we must also fix the things that will help strengthen the system and ensure quality care. This includes investing in efforts that enable us to expand access and supports, including information, early intervention and prevention.

Funding critical programs like Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is essential to meeting these important goals. OPI helps ensure seniors and people with disabilities can receive a variety of personal or home care assistance in their homes, often preventing them from entering more restrictive and costly care settings before it's necessary.

Information and referral resources like the ones included in the Aging and Disability Resource Center concept are considered a best practice in helping individuals and families navigate the long-term care system and avoid confusion and frustration when trying to find needed information, services and supports for themselves or loved ones.

And appropriate family caregiver supports will help bolster a vital component and backbone of long-term care in Oregon and across the country. It's estimated that the state alone has 420,000 unpaid family caregivers who provide an incredible \$4.6 billion of care.

Thanks you again for time and consideration of HB 2391 – we urge your support.