



NorthWest Senior & Disability Services

Formerly Mid-Willamette Valley Senior Services Agency

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February 3, 2012

TO: The Honorable Chairs Representative Gilliam and Representative Tomei
FROM: Rodney Schroeder, Executive Director (Operations)
SUBJECT: Support for HB 4084

Chairs Gilliam and Tomei and members of the Committee,

On behalf of NorthWest Senior & Disability Services, the Transfer Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities serving Marion, Polk, Clatsop, Tillamook and Yamhill counties, we are pleased to add our support to House Bill 4084, addressing key issues in the area of elder abuse. As a Transfer Area Agency, we provide adult protective services on behalf of the state in this five county area. Transfer Area Agencies provide APS services for over 50% of the state's caseload in long-term care.

NWSDS has participated in the Elder Abuse Work Group and offered expertise and information as requested. There cannot be any overstatement in the importance of providing protection for our most vulnerable citizens in order to help insure their safety along with their independence and dignity. We commend the work of Representative Hoyle and Representative Gilliam to not only bring attention to the needs in this area but also finding solutions and new ideas to strengthen our work in protective services.

For many of those seniors served in the long-term care system, their ability to reach out and ask for help is limited. This can be due to impairment, disability or even reluctance or in the worst cases, intimidation and fear. A strong and robust protective services system will help us have the tools we need to protect individuals from abuse and to intervene quickly and efficiently when an incident arises.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Elder Abuse Work Group and Representatives Hoyle and Gilliam throughout the interim.

Serving Clatsop, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill Counties

MEASURE: HB 4084
EXHIBIT: 1
2012 SESSION H HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 2/3/2012 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Rodney Schroeder