

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities
Advocating for Services Oregonians Can't Live Without

April 1, 2013

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

The Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities encourages your committee to recommend full funding of the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO).

This program is an important component of the long term care system, in that it provides independent eyes and ears to visit licensed long term care facilities in Oregon. All indications are that it is one of the State's most efficient operations recruiting and training over 200 volunteers to visit these facilities over a wide geographic area. This outreach complements the State's efforts to prevent and report possible abuse. Moreover, the volunteer visits may assist in the early resolution of potential complaints before they reach the stage where a formal investigation becomes necessary.

In summary, we consider the ombudsman program an important element in maintaining the quality of Oregon's long term care system. Given the LTCO's high ratio of volunteers to paid staff (it is our understanding that only four states have higher ratios), this office should be funded at a level that will allow it to move closer to its goal of having an Certified Volunteer assigned to every licensed facility in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

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cc: Committee Members