



April 1, 2013

Chair Alan Bates & Chair Nancy Nathanson
Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bates, Chair Nathanson & Members of the Committee:

O4AD, representing the 17 Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities, is pleased to offer our support of HB 5024, the budget bill providing support for the Office of Oregon's Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Area Agencies on Aging work collaboratively with the office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman as we work to advocate for the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon's seniors. Oregon's Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman provides a necessary role in our state to insure that residents of nursing facilities, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes can expect quality and safe care.

As a state, we are looking carefully at how we can increase our investment in prevention and early interventions to help individuals achieve better health and better outcomes with lower cost. Investing in the safety of our most vulnerable individuals is not only a wise investment, it is a necessary one for our state. We ask that you consider investment in the budget for this important part of Oregon's system of long-term services and supports.

Thank you.

Nicole Palmateer
Government Relations & Association Director
O4AD

O4AD works to protect the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. Area Agencies on Aging, our members, provide long-term care services statewide including home delivered meals, Medicaid services for over 50% of the state and Oregon Project Independence. O4AD's members are responsible for service provision to the largest majority of seniors and people with disabilities in Oregon. www.o4ad.org

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities. www.o4ad.org. info@o4ad.org