



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

500 Summer St. NE, E-02

Salem, OR 97301-1076

Phone: 1-800-282-8096

FAX: 503-373-7823

Monday, April 1, 2013

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair  
House Health Care Committee

RE: House Bill 2056-1

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Keny-Guyer and Thompson, and Members of the Committee:

At the most recent meeting of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services (GCSS) on March 20, 2013, the Commission unanimously adopted a resolution in support of House Bill 2056-1. HB 2056-1 is a vital piece of legislation that reauthorizes the Long Term Care Facility Assessment which is projected to generate \$295.4 million in funding for services for low income seniors and people with disabilities. This revenue is assumed in the Governor's Recommended Budget, which GCSS has also endorsed.

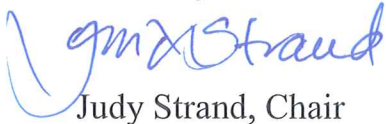
HB 2056 also provides market based tools to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and providers which will encourage voluntary "capacity reduction agreements" by providers in service areas with identified excess capacity. GCSS agrees that helping nursing facilities operate at higher occupancy levels will enhance efficiency, help enable optimum staffing levels, enhance care and encourage better outcomes and lower re-hospitalization rates. Finally, incentives to produce higher occupancy levels will reduce fixed operating costs of providers, lowering per-patient day costs, slowing the growth of system-wide costs.

***ORS 410.320(3): The Governor's Commission on Senior Services shall advise the Governor and the Director of Human Services on needs of elderly persons, and recommend actions by the Governor, the Department of Human Services, other governmental entities and the private sector, appropriate to meet such needs.***

GCSS endorses HB 2056-1 and urges Members of the House Health Care Committee vote for its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Judy Strand, Chair

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

***ORS 410.320(3): The Governor's Commission on Senior Services shall advise the Governor and the Director of Human Services on needs of elderly persons, and recommend actions by the Governor, the Department of Human Services, other governmental entities and the private sector, appropriate to meet such needs.***