

To: Chair Barnhart, members of the House Committee on Revenue

RE: Support for HB 2056-1

The Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter urges you to support House Bill 2056 with the -1 amendments, which reauthorizes the Long Term Care Facility Assessment and creates a process for providing more efficient nursing facility services.

Oregon's long term care system is a model for the nation, and the use of this assessment helps ensure that sufficient resources are available for those who need it. The money raised through this assessment is matched with federal dollars to provide over \$295 million per biennium in Total Funds for Medicaid long term care services. A large percentage of people served by these resources are Oregonians living with Alzheimer's disease. Without the renewal of this assessment, the services supporting these vulnerable Oregonians would be at risk of cuts, as both the Governor's Recommended Budget and the Co-Chair's budget have assumed this \$295 million would be available, and these dollars go to provide Medicaid services in long term care settings.

We also support the inclusion of the Long Term Care Ombudsman in the section of the legislation regarding creating more efficiency with our nursing facilities. The Ombudsman is our most effective tool for ensuring patients' rights and needs are taken care of in the event of any changes to nursing facilities. We believe the legislation has incorporated sufficient safeguards for ensuring the safety of residents and access to services statewide.

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