

April 12, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court St. NE, H-279  
Salem, OR 97301

*Re: In Support of HB 2671*

Dear Chair Tomei and members of the committee:

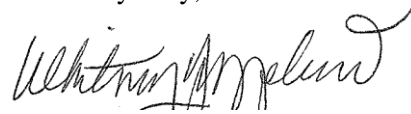
The Oregon State Bar Elder Law Section supports the passage of HB 2671 creating a State Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator.

The State Office of Public Guardian and Conservator is uniquely designed to protect vulnerable adults who: (1) are unable to make decisions and, due to that inability, are likely to face serious physical harm or illness; (2) are oftentimes the victims of financial exploitation, physical abuse and/or neglect; (3) have no family, friends or acquaintances who can protect them from harm or serve as guardian and/or conservator; and, (4) have no financial resources to retain a private guardian and/or conservator. When there is no means to provide a guardian and/or conservator (or other substitute decision maker), some at-risk adults are extremely vulnerable to having their physical and financial health gravely affected. A State Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator is a necessary least restrictive alternative protection and assistance service.

We recognize that there is a cost for setting up a State Office of Public Guardian and Conservator. However, it is well worth the cost because there are many Oregonians in need of public guardian and/or conservator services who are in dire straits and who each meet the four (4) criteria outlined above.

For these reasons, the Oregon State Bar Elder Law Section urges your support of HB 2671.

Yours very truly,



Whitney Yazzolino, Chair  
Oregon State Bar Elder Law Section