

Advocacy Coalition

of Seniors and People with Disabilities

P.O. Box 5970

Salem, OR 97304

February 27, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2712

Dear Chair Tomei,

The Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities supports HB 2712 and requests that the Committee on Human Services and Housing report it to the House with a do pass recommendation.

Low-income, childless adults who suffer a disability can quickly exhaust their resources and become destitute while they wait an average of 1 to 2 years to receive federal benefits. Temporary disability benefits (formerly known as General Assistance) provide medical care and minimal cash assistance to help people afford rent, bus fare, prescriptions and necessary incidentals. These temporary benefits can be reimbursed by the Federal government so that, if the program were restored, the State would be providing a "bridge advance" to minimize hardships of some of its most vulnerable citizens.

This bill would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish an advisory committee to assist it in developing recommendations for a general assistance program to serve low-income, childless adults with disabilities and to report recommendations to Legislative Assembly during its 2014 session.

Thank you for hearing this bill. We urge the Committee to approve it and take a step toward restoring this important program to assist some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Robert Lawrence, Senior Co-Chair
(503) 598-8672
lawrence2243@comcast.net

Bill Olson, Disabilities Co-Chair
(503) 851-7684
fwolson@comcast.net

CC: Committee Members

Advocating for Services Oregonians Can't Live Without