

# Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

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I N D E P E N D E N C E • C H O I C E • D I G N I T Y

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors  
and People with Disabilities

Alzheimer's Association  
Oregon Chapter

Brain Injury Association of Oregon

Disability Services Advisory Council of  
Clackamas County

Elders in Action Commission

Governor's Commission  
on Senior Services

Impact Northwest

Independent Living Resources

LeadingAge

Long Term Care Advisory Committee

Making Oregon Vital for Elders  
(MOVE)

Multnomah County Disability  
Services Advisory Council

National Multiple Sclerosis Society,  
Oregon Chapter

O4AD (Oregon Association of Area  
Agencies on Aging and Disabilities)

Oregon AFSCME Council 75

Oregon Alliance for Retired  
Americans

Oregon Health Care Association

Oregon State Council for  
Retired Citizens

Parkinson's Resources of Oregon

Save Oregon Seniors

Seniors Serving Oregon Coalition

Service Employees International  
Union

United Seniors of Oregon

Urban League of Portland

## In Support of HB 2671

Chair Tomei and members of the committee:

The Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities supports the passage and adoption of HB 2671.

For some high-risk, low-income persons, there is no one to serve as a guardian and no money to hire a professional fiduciary. Family members or friends are not available, either because they do not exist, or are not appropriate to be guardian or conservator. These vulnerable people are falling through Oregon's safety net. They fall victim to the self-interest of others and may be unnecessarily placed in institutions. Many of these friendless, exploited and abused individuals are completely on their own.

HB 2671 creates the State Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator to provide public guardian and conservator services. The services may include information, assistance, legal representation and services as a court-appointed fiduciary in guardianship or conservatorship proceedings. The bill requires the State Office to certify and train public guardians and conservators as well as develop a volunteer program to assist the office.

Many states have developed state-wide "public guardian" as a resource to assist and protect these at-risk individuals who are unable to care for themselves. For this reason, the Campaign urges your support of HB 2671.