



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Human Services

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DATE: February 18, 2014

TO: Chair Floyd Prozanski
Senate Judiciary

FROM: Fred Steele, MPH, JD
Legal Services Developer
State Unit on Aging
Oregon Department of Human Services
503-945-6325

SUBJECT: House Bill 4114 A



Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Fred Steele. I am the state Legal Services Developer as identified in the Older Americans Act. My position is housed in the Department of Human Services (DHS), State Unit on Aging. I am also a member of the Oregon State Bar.

I provide this testimony today in conjunction with HB 4114 A for the purposes of informing you of a stakeholder collaborative that may be of assistance to counties looking to incorporate programs for the appointment of special advocates to monitor guardianships as provided for in HB 4114 A.

Last year, Oregon was one of four states selected for a small \$7,000 incentive grant from the National Guardianship Network to establish what is referred to as a Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardian Stakeholders group, or WINGS for short. This initiative is a partnership between the Oregon State Unit on Aging and the Oregon Judicial Department. Starting in August 2013, over 30 individuals and entities with an interest in improving adult guardianship/conservatorship processes and infrastructure met for the first time for what is expected to be a long-term collaborative. Attached is our current membership list, which demonstrates the spectrum of professionals and family guardians engaged in the WINGS effort.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Though the Oregon WINGS group is not a collaborative created to take positions on legislation, the concept of HB 4114 A has been discussed with the group. The concept of monitoring guardianships through special advocates is a known, effective approach in other states, and our WINGS members have prioritized the concept as a statewide infrastructure improvement effort for which members want to be of assistance in developing.

Finally, just to confirm because I am speaking from my position as it is housed in DHS. While DHS' position is neutral for this bill, I do want to confirm that DHS leadership approved me providing this testimony to briefly educate the committee regarding the WINGS effort in Oregon and its potential for assisting with momentum of HB 4114 A supported approaches.

I will conclude with that comment and make myself available for any questions.

(See Attachment)

Oregon WINGS membership

Fred Steele.....Department of Human Services (Oregon WINGS project lead)
The Honorable Lauren Holland.....Oregon Judicial Department (project co-lead)
The Honorable Katherine TennysonOregon Judicial Department (project co-lead)
Senator Michael Dembrow.....Oregon Senate District 23 (NE Portland)
Jon Bartholomew.....Alzheimer’s Association Oregon Chapter
Holly Berman.....Guardian/Conservator Association of Oregon
Jeff Brandon.....Governor’s Commission on Senior Services
Kelly Breshears.....Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Conservatorship Manager
Margaret Cervenka.....Leading Age Oregon
Cheryl Cisneros.....family guardian
Jerry Cohen.....AARP-Oregon Director
Jan Friedman.....Disability Rights Oregon
Joe Greenman.....Oregon Health Care Association
Christian Hale.....Office of Adult Abuse Prevention & Investigations
Theresa Hollis.....Attorney, Portland
Deborah Howard.....Oregon Health Authority, Oregon State Hospital guardianship program
Marcie Ingledue.....The ARC Oregon
Mary Jaeger.....Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Brandi Keeth.....Social Security Administration, Oregon office
Ellen Klem.....Department of Justice
Debra Lee.....Center for NonProfit Legal Services (Jackson county)
Nancy MacDonald.....Guardian/Conservator Association of Oregon
Maureen Nash, MD.....Medical Director, Tuality Center for Geriatric Psychiatry
Channa Newel.....family guardian
Cynthia Owens.....family guardian
Maggie Patterson.....family guardian
Mark Sanford.....Multnomah County Public Guardian
Becky Strickland.....Lane County APS / O4AD
Sherry Stock.....Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon / Oregon Disabilities Commission
Leslie Sutton.....Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Dan Van Thiel.....Attorney, Baker City
Travis Wall.....At-large member
Whitney Yazzolino.....Attorney, Portland / Chair, Elder Law section

National Experts:

Mary Joy Quinn.....National Guardianship Network
Erica Wood.....American Bar Association, Commission on Law & Aging