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AARP Oregon Supports SB 1542

Today, family members provide the majority of caregiving; indeed, family caregivers – including family members, partners, or close friends – are a key factor in the ability to remain in one's home and in the community. However, the supply of family caregivers is unlikely to keep pace with the future demands of an aging population.

As the number of individuals needing services to help them live independently grows in the coming years, a recently released AARP Public Policy Institute report finds that the number of family caregivers available for older Americans will drop dramatically over the same time. And, when families are not able to provide all the services that a loved one needs to live independently, individuals and their families turn to paid care.

SB 1542 provides another option for families and consumers to consider when seeking paid caregivers. The bill allows private payers to hire home care workers through a registry maintained by the Oregon Home Care Commission. Home care workers listed in the registry have gone through background checks and have experience and training in caregiving. While the Home Care Commission provides administrative services, the consumer determines the services to be provided and can retain or terminate services as they choose.

AARP Oregon supports SB 1542 because it provides another caregiving option for individuals and families. In utilizing the Home Care Commission registry, consumers have some assurances regarding the worker's background, training and experience.

The Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities, a coalition of over two dozen organizations that advocate on behalf of seniors and the disabled, also supports passage of SB 1542.

AARP Oregon Urges a YES vote on SB 1542

FROM THE DESK OF:
Senator Diane Rosenbaum