

February 18, 2015

To: The Senate Health Care Committee

From: AARP Oregon per State Director Gerald J. Cohen

AARP Oregon believes that while this credit helps some Oregonians prepare for the cost of long-term care we believe there are a better uses of these resources to benefit our aging society with growing long term care needs.

Our concerns regarding the existing Long Term Care Insurance Tax Credit are:

- (1) Available evidence regarding the numbers of Oregonians currently utilizing the existing long term care insurance tax credit, and their income status versus those in far greater need;
- (2) The current status of such policies regarding value to consumers and consumer protections; and as noted above
- (3) Revenues lost which should be invested in Oregon's aging demographics and need for family caregiver supports.

Instead, we would encourage that any savings gained by changes to this tax credit assure:

- (1) Greater equity as to population impacted;
- (2) Greater consumer protections regarding premium and other costs versus actual coverage secured; and
- (3) Revenues secured/saved by changes be used to further invest in Oregon's long term supports and services systems, especially in restoring life span respite to family caregivers.

I have attached AARP's Public Policy Section which addresses the issue with some research to support these concerns.