



## **Oregon Health Care Association supports HB 2250**

*To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness  
Chair Fagan, Vice-chair Buehler, Vice-Chair Rayfield  
Members of the committee*

The Oregon Health Care Association is a private not-for-profit trade association representing nursing homes, assisted living, residential care, senior housing facilities, in-home care agencies and long term care corporate offices. On behalf of our more than 620 members, OHCA urges support for HB 2250, which will vastly improve the background check process that protects Oregon's most vulnerable.

This bill is a continuation of the work accomplished with bipartisan support in the 2013 session on streamlining background checks. First, HB 2250 clarifies existing law about modernizing fingerprint capture from paper to an electronic method. Second, it continues the rule making process at the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to better align criminal background checks based on the vulnerable population being protected, rather than the agency performing the background check.

It is crucial to continue aligning background check rules. Currently, there are inconsistent criteria for passing or failing a background check depending on which agency is performing the check. These inconsistencies often occur even within occupations that work with the same population, such as jobs working with children, seniors, or with people with disabilities.

As a result, for example, a new background check may be required when an employee applies for a job working with seniors, even if the individual has already passed a background check and has been working with seniors in a different position. These repeated and redundant background checks can be frustrating for employees, burdensome to employers, and costly for state agencies.

By allowing DAS to create clear and consistent fitness determinations within types of occupations, HB 2250 will strengthen and modernize background check processes, improve efficiency in state government, and allow providers to better protect Oregon's most vulnerable.

**Oregon Health Care Association urges your support of HB 2250.**