



April 2, 2015

ATTN: House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is pleased to support HB 3378, also known as the CARE Act. NASW is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. Social workers serve to uphold human wellbeing and to ensure that basic human needs are provided to every member of our communities. We are particularly concerned with empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. We support the CARE Act because it serves those in vulnerable health by improving coordination and communication of post-hospitalization care planning for those discharged from Oregon hospitals.

The overarching goal of HB 3378 is to prevent avoidable rehospitalizations via the establishment of strong home care support upon discharge. The work of family and lay caregivers is integral to successful recovery. The bill promotes education for primary home caregivers via deliberate explanation and live instruction of necessary care tasks by professional medical staff. This ensures that caregivers have a solid foundation of skills, knowledge, and reliability needed to properly support the medically vulnerable. HB 3378 serves to actively integrate home caregivers as part of the medical support team that is dedicated to successful patient recovery. It provides the means to keep people out of the hospital and recovering safely at home.

HB 3378 aligns with NASW's commitment to supporting self-determination and upholds our core values of service, the importance of human relationships, and the inherent dignity and worth of every individual. Thus, the NASW Legislative Committee has concluded that the CARE Act has much potential to positively impact medically vulnerable persons, families, and medical staff alike. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Jillian M. Szilagyi Kelly", the second is "Kaseja Wilder", and the third is "Kelly Skellenger".

Jillian M. Szilagyi Kelly, Kaseja Wilder, and Kelly Skellenger  
MSW Students and NASW Legislative Committee Members – Oregon Chapter