



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Aging and People with Disabilities

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April 3, 2015

The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Human Services and Housing Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301



Re: HB 2547

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these written comments regarding HB2547.

The Department of Human Services has convened a stakeholder group to discuss emerging questions around new models of housing serving seniors and people with disabilities. Organizing for this stakeholder group began in the fall, with the first of these meetings being held just this past January.

The stakeholder group includes 40 members from community housing providers, consumer advocacy groups, DHS Aging and People with Disabilities program leadership, the Office of Adult Abuse Prevention & Investigations, the Office of Licensing & Regulatory Oversight, Oregon Department of Justice, all associations representing Oregon's licensed long term care providers, the state Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and others who represent the interests of seniors and/or people with disabilities.

The discussions have focused on housing models that serve older adults and people with disabilities that may also include access to or coordination of services such as medical and long term care services, care coordination, and social and community building activities.

This stakeholder group has begun exploring questions around resident rights and consumer protections, grievance policies, emergency planning, aging in place, and whether additional regulatory structures are needed. Our discussions have illuminated the complexity of this issue. There is a need for a thoughtful, in-depth examination of the issues facing seniors and people with disabilities as they seek to live in independent settings.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Through our recent and future planned work, the goal of the stakeholder group is to identify what consumer protections, if any, should exist for housing providers that offer supportive services to seniors and people with disabilities. It is my intent to report consensus recommendations to the 2017 Legislative Assembly. I am also available to brief the Legislature as this work progresses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike McCormick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike McCormick, Director
Aging and People with Disabilities Program
Department of Human Services