



Deborah Kafoury Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 988-3308
Email: mult.chair@multco.us

April 3, 2015

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2547

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee:

I am writing regarding HB 2547. I understand that the amendments being offered on this bill will call for a task force to address such issues as defining "Housing with Services Facilities," looking at mechanisms to ensure consumer rights and protections, and establishing safety standards. This bill has stimulated conversation among stakeholders regarding housing issues including various models for vulnerable consumers. I believe this conversation is critical if we are to ever meet the diverse needs of this population.

As Chair of a county government that provides housing assistance and services for the elderly and people with disabilities, I fully support and encourage this type of dialogue. This dialogue must include ensuring consumers have access to choice of care providers, services, and settings; high quality care; and protection and advocacy. A task force or workgroup is an appropriate vehicle to fully examine these issues with an unbiased and person-focused perspective.

Should a task force or work group be convened, I encourage you to include in the membership, consumers, and a broad range of key stakeholders. And I would request that Multnomah County be included in this membership. I also urge the Legislature to include in their charge a robust analysis of the issues, which include identifying quality metrics, conducting a business case analysis, and establishing a timeline for action. This would ensure that consumers, providers, and the community's interests and concerns are adequately addressed.

Thank you so much for your interest and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kafoury, Chair
Multnomah County