



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

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April 6th, 2015

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

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

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

The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman has been participating in a stakeholder group to discuss emerging questions around new models of housing serving seniors and people with disabilities.

The discussions have focused on understanding how these emerging models fit with in the existing field of options for consumers, understanding what distinguishes housing with services from other options and building in adequate consumer safeguards.

I am writing in support of the amendments to HB 2547 that creates a task force to define housing with services and evaluate consumer expectations, consumer protections and grievance procedures.

The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman is named as a member of the taskforce in the proposed amendments. We will bring our resident-centered and consumer-protection focus to the taskforce if the amendments are adopted. We support the development of new models for providing housing and services with adequate consumer protections and grievance procedures as essential elements of the project's design and implementation.



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We are particularly mindful that if any currently licensed provider move to de-license and become housing with services, that the taskforce should evaluate the implications and assure safeguards for consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters regarding HB 2547.

Sincerely,

David R. Berger, JD

Interim Agency Director and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman