



Oregon Health Care Association Supports HB 2219

On behalf of our more than 700 members, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, residential care, senior housing communities, and in-home care agencies, OHCA urges support for HB 2219.

HB 2219 is an important first step in delivering human services more efficiently in Oregon. Many of our members provide services to low-income seniors through the state's Medicaid program. We believe that seizing opportunities to make government more efficient is essential for securing resources that will help serve vulnerable populations like seniors who depend on Medicaid.

HB 2219 will initiate a workgroup to study how to consolidate the application for human and social services offered through the Oregon Department of Human Services and a variety of other state agencies. Currently, individuals and families who receive multiple services (including SNAP, medical assistance, rental assistance, etc.) are required to fill out a separate application for every service or benefit for which they are eligible. That means that the Department of Human Services must employ individuals to process all of these applications separately.

This process is time consuming and costly. A single consolidated application that would replace the several applications now used by DHS and other social services agencies would be more efficient for the agencies and less burdensome for the applicant.

Every biennium, the human services budget is stretched thin. Streamlining the application process for human services will free up resources in other areas of DHS that can be redirected to service delivery.

By convening a work group to study the best way to consolidate applications for human and social services, the legislature would be making a wise investment in the future of human services funding and delivery in this state. OHCA urges your support of this common sense government efficiency measure.