



May 5, 2015

Representative Sara Gelsler, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Chair Gelsler and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood:

On behalf of Oregon's Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities and the seniors and people with disabilities we serve throughout Oregon, O4AD is pleased to support HB 2219 and asks for your support and passage of this bill.

HB 2219 calls for a workgroup to study the various application processes that currently exist for an individual to attain services when in need. Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities see the frustration that can exist for an individual when they are meeting with eligibility specialists and case managers. Often a separate application form and process is needed for every service or benefit eligibility. This process is not only time consuming but also is not a person centered approach to help an individual find the best continuum of services to improve their current situation. The current processes also do not allow case managers to easily work among programs to find the right blend of services and supports for an individual.

Through a discussion on how to improve the application process among programs, we can help lower the barriers for individuals to achieving the assistance needed to become more independent, but also allow programs to discuss needs of the individual more effectively - and move towards a more holistic and efficient approach to how we provide care to our vulnerable individuals.

O4AD supports HB 2219 and we look forward to participating in this conversation in the interim.