



PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2547 A

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

OHCA urges support of HB 2547, which creates a task force on “housing with services”.

HB 2547 seeks to address policy issues raised by a new model of supported senior housing called “housing with services,” which blends independent senior housing, with a variety of services and supports, including health care-related.

The original bill was modeled after legislation in Minnesota and sought to define “housing with services” and provide some basic consumer protections for residents in these settings. After discussions with stakeholders, legislators and DHS, we all agreed that a task force with broad representation, including legislators, along with a clear directive to develop legislation for consideration in the 2016 session was the preferred next step.

If housing with services is to become a permanent model of supported senior housing in Oregon, there needs to be clear definitions of what constitutes housing with services and what separates it from other care or independent living settings. This will ensure that both care providers and consumers have a clear understanding of what this new model *is* and *is not*, protecting both sides of the equation from the challenges and liabilities that can come from ambiguity.

The task force is comprised of advocates representing low-income housing, long term care providers, housing with services operators, labor, advocates for seniors and people with disabilities, and bipartisan membership from both legislative chambers.

We believe this task force will be able to proactively develop legislation that provides certainty for care providers and protections for consumers in this emerging area of supported housing for seniors.

*OHCA represents more than 700 skilled nursing, independent living, licensed residential care and assisted living communities, and licensed in-home care agencies throughout Oregon. Our organization has been dedicated to strengthening a legacy of quality long term care for nearly 65 years.