

From the desk of
ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD MD,
STATE SENATOR



April 5, 2015

OREGON STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 17

To Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House;

This letter is to offer my enthusiastic support for the concepts contained in the CARE Act (HB 3378). As a daughter, wife, mother and sister, I have personally experienced the challenges of caring for loved ones. As a public policymaker, I have always looked for ways that our public and private systems and programs can better ease the burdens of those of us who care for Oregon's most vulnerable.

HB3378 recognizes the critical role that unpaid family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones out of costly post-hospital discharge facilities while engaging the caregiver as a formal part of the discharge-planning team. This bill makes it easier for family caregivers to support their loved ones on a timely basis and with more information available to them.

As you are well aware, our current health and long-term care system relies heavily on family caregivers, most of them women. The value of their service in Oregon has been estimated to be well over \$5 billion annually. This is an opportunity to support family caregivers who are offering their love, care and generosity so those who need them may live with choice, dignity and independence.

Thank you,

Gov. Barbara Roberts

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