

Support Updating Oregon's Advance Care Directive

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 494

The current advance directive was last updated in 1993

SB 494 updates Oregon's advance directive, a mandatory form established in statute and unchanged since 1993. As a legal document, the advance directive is the only method by which Oregonians may appoint a health care representative and give guidance for health care decision making when they are not capable.

Current form creates significant barriers for Oregonians

Updating the advance directive is necessary to make the process more accessible to all Oregonians, regardless of socioeconomic class, religion or primary language. The 1993 form is confusing, primarily due to its structure and information requested. Consequently, a high number of individuals start, but fail to complete, the form.

Beyond the complexity, because the form is memorialized in statute there is little flexibility for individuals to provide useful information about their values and wishes related to health care decision making.

Consensus bill improves care planning for all Oregonians

SB 494 is consensus legislation, resulting from nearly two years of comprehensive discussions among a broad group of stakeholders, including consumer advocates, health care providers and legal experts. The bill clarifies that an advance directive is not a medical order, and it does not change the essential role of an advance directive. The bill includes four primary components:

- **Small but essential changes to the current statutory form**
Although the current form will remain in statute until 2018, simplifying the language to clarify existing requirements and allowing the use of a notary will enable more people to complete the form to express their wishes. Family members and health providers will have a tool to guide care and respect the wishes of the person who completed the advanced care directive.
- **Establish strict framework for updating the advance directive**
A committee, made of a diverse stakeholder group, is established within the Office of Public Health. Based on a strict statutory framework outlined in the bill, the group will adopt a single advance directive form by rule through a public process. The committee must report on its work to the Legislature.
- **Process improvements to execution of the advanced directive**
The bill eliminates barriers to executing an advanced directive, including allowing notarization of the document. The bill also requires appointed Health Care Representatives to accept the appointment in order to encourage dialogue about the patient's wishes.
- **Existing Advance Directives remain valid.** No change is made in the effect of an advance directive.

Senate Bill 494, with the adoption of an additional amendment, is a consensus bill that encourages Oregon families to have (and document) more valuable discussions about their health care values and wishes, rather than, as the 1993 form does, attempt to reduce sensitive decisions to a checklist.

(see next page for contacts and endorsing organizations)

For more information please contact:

Jessica Adamson, Providence Health & Services, 503.381.8362, jessica.adamson@providence.org

Tom Holt, Cambia Health Solutions, 503.225.6803, tom.holt@cambiahealth.com

Jonathan Bartholomew, AARP, 503.333.7002, jbartholomew@aarp.org

Susan Grabe, Oregon State Bar Association, 503.804.5378, sgrabe@osbar.org



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

alzheimer's  association®

AARP® Real Possibilities

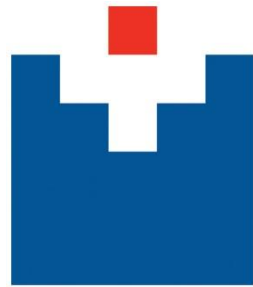
Oregon

OHCA

Oregon State Bar

OREGON HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

ONA Oregon Nurses Association
Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904



LEGACY HEALTH

 **CAMBIA**™
HEALTH SOLUTIONS

 **OREGON HEALTH DECISIONS**
Giving Oregonians a Voice in Their Health Care

7451 SW Coho Ct. #101, Tualatin, OR 97062
503-692-0894 or toll free 1-800-422-4805

 **PROVIDENCE**
Health & Services

 **KAISER PERMANENTE**®

*Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens
United Seniors of Oregon
Oregon Disabilities Commission*

Oregon  **Association of Hospitals and Health Systems**

