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4/6/2017

Re: House Bill 3370

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on HB 3370.

The Oregon Health Care Association was supportive of the state developing a definition and regulatory framework for an emerging supportive housing model called "housing with services." That was the intent of the task force approved in the 2015 session. HB 3370 is a departure from that initiative and seeks to establish a system of registration for certain senior living communities.

Based on that understanding, we ask that Section 1(b)(G) of the printed version of the bill be deleted from the definition of "Health and social services". Section 1(b)(G) includes "wellness and preventative health services" in this definition and could potentially discourage senior living communities from offering such activities as yoga, exercise or conditioning classes, lectures on wellness and nutrition, or even a free flu shot.

Many independent living or planned senior living communities offer amenities such as shuttle buses, access to housekeeping or other activities like those listed above. Including them under new state registration requirements and charging fees could discourage such communities from continuing to offer such positive health and wellness activities to members of their community thereby denying their residents of the benefits and enjoyment such offerings provide.

We support appropriate oversight and supervision of licensed settings, and any unlicensed settings that are actively coordinating health care services and long term care services and supports. We believe deleting the language we have suggested above will help ensure that this legislation will not have unintended consequences and preserve the intent of the current version of the bill.

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