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Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing

Support for House Bill 2661

Joint Subcommittee on Human Services, June 26, 2017

Co-Chairs Sen. Steiner Hayward and Rep. Rayfield, and members of the committee:

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents more than 900 organizations statewide providing long term care services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living and residential care communities, independent senior housing, licensed in-home care agencies, and business partners.

OHCA would like to share our support for this bill and express our gratitude to the many legislators, stakeholders, staff and the Attorney General for their leadership and extensive work on this legislation. The final version of the bill provides important consumer protections for the long-term care referral agency sector, including:

- Requires clear and conspicuous disclosures to the consumer, including a privacy policy, how the agent is compensated for their services, and whether they only refer to communities they contract with.
- Personal information cannot be shared or sold without express permission of the client.
- Prevents agents from referring to a community they, or an immediate family member, has an ownership interest, known as "self-referrals".
- Requires that referral agents register with the Department of Human Services.

While most long-term care residents do not utilize a referral agency, there is an appropriate role for both local, in-person referral agents as well as national online/phone-based referral agencies in the sector. Consumers who use either of these services in the future will be afforded greater protections under House Bill 2661.

Thank you.