



Oregon Project Independence Talking Points

Good Morning Chair Keny Guyer and Members of the Committee,

My name is Loretta Smith and I am a Multnomah County Commissioner.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding the proposed 75% reduction to Oregon Project Independence for seniors and the elimination of the program for adults with disabilities.

I have been advocating for seniors at the federal, state, and local level throughout my time in public service.

One of the best measures of a society is how it treats residents who are older or have disabilities.

And by that measure, we have a lot to be proud of because of the Legislature's investments in OPI.

OPI is an Oregon-grown program that reflects the ingenuity and independence of Oregon residents.

It is a vital program in the continuum of long term services and supports available to older adults and people with disabilities in Multnomah County.

OPI is one, if not the most cost effective service provided in Oregon's long term care system, providing services such as housekeeping, personal care, grocery shopping, and adult respite services that keep people in their homes.

It is a proven, cost-effective strategy, and it makes our communities stronger.

Services provided average just \$350 per month per client.

Based on an analysis by Oregon DHS, OPI was about 9 times less expensive than Medicaid Long-term institutions.

Commissioner Loretta Smith
Multnomah County, District 2