

From the Desk of
Representative
Andy Olson



alzheimer's  association

Andy Olson

Oregon Chapter

Elders
in Action

AARP® Real Possibilities
Oregon



Support HB 3359 - Long Term Care Quality & Safety Improvement

Dear House Members,

Oregon has one of the best long term care systems in the country and has led the nation in innovations in community based care and person-centered care practices. AARP recently ranked our state fourth in the nation for overall quality of senior care. HB 3359 continues Oregon's leadership in providing quality care for seniors, particularly for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

HB 3359 is a comprehensive reform bill that raises staff training requirements, establishes new quality measures for residential care/assisted living providers (including memory care), enhances the state's oversight authority, and establishes a progressive disciplinary system, including higher penalties for rule violations and abuse. Highlights of the legislation includes:

- (1) Increased Staff Training and Competency:** All direct caregivers must receive training in nationally recognized dementia care best practices before caring for residents and DHS will develop rules for how they must demonstrate competency of the material. In addition, all caregivers must complete six hours of continuing education each year.
- (2) Quality Measures on Key Outcomes:** Residential care/assisted living providers must track and report key quality measures. Results will be posted online by DHS and compiled in an annual report available to the public, providers and policymakers, who can use the data to monitor trends and determine how Oregon's long term care system is performing over time.
- (3) Enhanced Oversight and Supervision:** Residential care and assisted living providers currently are subject to extensive regulatory oversight and most providers perform very well. For the small percentage of underperforming providers, HB 3359 provides for increased oversight and more frequent surveys by the state until a provider is in compliance.
- (4) Safe Prescription Drug Packaging:** Ensures that prescription drugs are packaged in unit dose packaging, such as blister packs, to promote safe drug administration.
- (5) Progressive Enforcement, Conditions on Licensure, and Increased Penalties:** Establishes a progressive enforcement system that requires penalties and conditions on licensure are designed to remediate problems. Includes scope and severity criteria for assessing higher penalties for rule violations and abuse. If there is an imminent threat to the safety of residents, streamlines the department's authority to impose an immediate license suspension.

We urge your support for HB3359.