



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

*Aging and People with Disabilities*

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Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer  
House Human Services and Housing Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

February 7, 2018

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer,

DHS believes every Oregonian is entitled to high quality and safe long-term care. One of the best ways to ensure high quality of care is to have an excellent administrator at the helm of an assisted living or residential care setting. Oregon has many such administrators currently in the system.

In the Aging and People with Disabilities division of DHS, we are focused on the needs of a rapidly aging population with an increasingly large number of people living with disabilities. HB 4129 will create a new comprehensive licensing board at the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Health Licensing that will continue the oversight for Nursing Home Administrators and will add administrators from assisted living and residential care and memory care communities.

Oregon pioneered the assisted living model for providing long-term services and supports in an environment that was less institutional. Demand for this and other similar options have been high as these settings provide a home-like atmosphere. As a result, we have seen tremendous growth in the community-based care arena – with over 500 licensed long-term care settings that fall within this category. This is compared with 136 nursing facilities.

The *New York Times* pointed out this past weekend that Oregon is one of only a handful of states to have taken progressive steps to improve quality and oversight in assisted living. While there is always more work to do, we can be proud that we continue to innovate in this area to better serve Oregonians and provide them with more choices for support as they age.

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

We look forward to working with legislators, providers and the OHA Office of Health Licensing on the professional licensure of residential care and assisted living Administrators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Carson Cottingham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ashley Carson Cottingham