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**SB 178 Testimony
Senate Human Services Committee
February 7, 2019**

Chair Gelser and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on SB 178. I am Ruth Gulyas, CEO of LeadingAge Oregon – the statewide association of not-for-profit and other mission-directed organizations dedicated to providing quality housing and services to the elderly. Our members include nursing homes, residential care, assisted living, home care agencies, continuing care retirement facilities known as CCRCs and federally subsidized housing for low-income seniors.

We support SB 178 that would permit a health care representative to make an election for hospice treatment on behalf of an incapacitated principal with a terminal condition who does not have a valid advance directive. It is important that such patients have access to the benefits of hospice. SB 178 would allow that.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB 178.