



inspire. serve. advocate.

**SB 177 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 177. 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 often say, our members are in it for the long haul, some meeting community need through their mission for as much as 100 years. They may have started out as a nursing home and then expanded their services as community needs were identified.

We support SB 177 that would require a hospice program licensed by Oregon Health Authority to identify patients in need of palliative care. As we understand it, current hospice licensing rules allow hospices that are affiliated with a Home Health or In-Home Services agency to offer palliative care services under their state license, but does not specifically address stand-alone hospices. SB177 would codify that stand-alone hospices can offer palliative care that is an ever increasingly important component on the continuum of care for patients experiencing serious illness.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB 177.