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**SB 1035 Testimony
Senate Human Services Committee
April 4, 2019**

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on SB 1035. 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 1035 that would design a limited benefit package to be provided to persons 55 years of age or older with an income below 400% of the federal poverty guidelines that has a chronic illness/disabling condition(s) requiring a nursing facility level of care. The benefit package would include a:

- A stipend of up to \$500 per month and
- A combination of supports and services such as care coordination, respite care, durable medical equipment or training and education for unpaid caregivers (family member, friend or neighbor of a care recipient who provides uncompensated in-home care to the care recipient).

The program would provide much needed respite to unpaid family caregivers that provide about \$5.7 billion worth of care annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB 1035.