



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

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April 8, 2019

The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair  
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Tawna Sanchez, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: -6 amendment to HB 3270

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee:

As the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, I am charged with ensuring that the rights of residents are protected in all long-term care facilities, including adult foster homes. This bill contemplates the increase of the number of residents who can live in Oregon's licensed adult foster homes. As might be obvious, such an increase has the potential to impact the rights and quality of care of residents in these homes. With the -6 amendment's proposed pilot program approach, I believe an appropriate effort has been identified to balance the rights and protections of residents while testing this proposal for potential growth in adult foster homes.

In particular, the -6 amendment requires that the Department of Human Services (DHS) 1) conduct a physical inspection to ensure the adult foster home is appropriate to participate in the pilot, 2) review the past 2 year regulatory compliance history of the home, and 3) review any history of abuse investigations before allowing an adult foster home to participate in the pilot.

Important to the residents in these homes, the amendment acknowledges the need for voluntary agreement to any potential shared room, and it requires that the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) program be provided a list of all participating adult foster homes to ensure LTCO can be in touch with all residents in pilot program homes to ensure they are aware of their rights.

During the pilot, the amendment also requires the tracking of complaints, licensing violations, abuse substantiations, and resident satisfaction in participating homes.

I do believe these are important steps to ensure a safe testing of this pilot program.

On a final note, I appreciate Representative Meek's effort to pilot an opportunity to ensure the ongoing availability of the adult foster home care model in Oregon. Rural Oregon has particularly been hit hard with the recent increase in adult foster home closures throughout the state. As I hear from our Ombudsman volunteers in those communities, the loss of adult foster homes in rural Oregon has had considerable impact to rural Oregonians needing care but wanting to live in a more home-like setting. Oregonians in those communities are instead becoming more restricted to residing in a larger facility setting or having to move out of their community to live in a smaller home care setting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this additional perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Fred Steele  
State Long Term Care Ombudsman  
Director, Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman