

Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

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Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Heard, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 3270. The Campaign is a broad coalition of organizations that comes together to advocate on issues critical to seniors and people with disabilities. Today, the Campaign would like to share our concerns regarding HB 3270, which proposes a pilot program for expanding adult foster home capacity from the longstanding limit of five to seven residents (a 40% increase).

Adult foster homes serve a critical role in Oregon's community-based care model. However, increasing the number of residents in adult foster homes should not be taken lightly. Currently, communities with 6 or more residents are licensed as Residential Care Facilities (RCFs), with higher levels of regulatory oversight and increased fire and life safety requirements.

If the committee advances this bill, we suggest adding additional sideboards such as:

- all existing residents of the home should be permitted to approve the increase in additional residents sharing their home;
- establish a cap on the number of adult foster homes that are eligible to participate in the pilot program;
- clarify the amount of common space that is required for adult foster homes. The current administrative rule is unclear whether it's 150 sq. ft total or 150 sq feet per resident. The clarification should be that it's the latter.

The Campaign recognizes the reimbursement challenges facing adult foster home providers. The current job market presents workforce challenges for care providers of all types. The Governor's Recommended Budget includes a 14% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates (10% and 4%) for adult foster home providers in the 2019-21 biennium. Improving Medicaid reimbursement rates is the preferable option for addressing workforce challenges in Oregon's home and community-based care system.

Thank you.