

Testimony OHCS Budget SB 669 March 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Human Services

Submitted by John Mullin on behalf of AARP

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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With 510,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability, and personal fulfillment. An important aspect of our advocacy is protecting and enhancing long term services and supports, consistent with the values of independence, dignity, and choice.

SB 669 is an important bill to consider as we look to preserve and enhance Oregon's system of Long Term Services and Supports. Oregon is considered a model in its historic leadership in developing service options, including a broad array of community based care. In home services are an important component of those service options.

For those who qualify for Medicaid in home services, access through the Oregon Home Care Commission is a key provision of safe and successful placement. For those who do not qualify for Medicaid, finding an in-home care worker through the private market can be a challenging experience. The quality of administration and training of workers can vary substantially among private in-home care agencies.

Fortunately, SB 669 is an opportunity to make improvements by setting uniform training standards for all in home care workers. The bill would also bring greater accountability to the private market.

On behalf of Oregon AARP, I encourage your support of SB 669

Thank you for your consideration.