



**Testimony in support of HB 5019  
Long Term Care Ombudsman/Public Guardian Budget**

March 11, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse, Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our support for the Long Term Care Ombudsman budget, HB 5019. AOCMHP represents CMHPs statewide, who manage the local behavioral health safety net of services for their communities. Some of their clients could greatly benefit from public guardians, but the funding for guardianships is not available and public guardians are scarce.

We are particularly concerned about individuals who are found never able to aid and assist in their own defense, and are a clear population needing public guardians. Increasing funding for the Office of the Public Guardian will add more capacity to help provide the services and supports this group needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for HB 5019, which will increase the number of public guardians available statewide.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP