



February 22, 2023

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2954

LeadingAge Oregon is an association of nonprofit and mission driven organizations dedicated to advancing quality aging services. LeadingAge Oregon urges support of House Bill ("HB") 2954, authorizing a pilot program to assist long term care employees with child care needs.

The long-term care (LTC) sector needs innovative solutions to address our workforce shortage and to support the recruitment and retention of staff and HB 2954 does just that. Per the February 2023 Oregon's Health Care Workforce Needs Assessment:

*"Long-term care employment dropped dramatically at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, but unlike other segments of health care, the size of the long-term care workforce never recovered."*

This pilot program will aid caregivers working in long term care communities in Oregon, a majority of whom (81%) are women. The LTC setting faces unique challenges and HB 2954 pilots a project that will address one of the significant issues facing caregivers and is an integral step in offering new solutions directly benefiting employees.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Milligan".

Kristin Milligan  
Chief Executive Officer  
LeadingAge Oregon