

March 2, 2023

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2869-2 as the Chair of the Employment and the Economy Committee of Age-Friendly Portland and Multnomah County, the former director of the Institute on Aging at Portland State University, and as an older adult myself.

HB 2869-2 proposes the formation of a cross-sector stakeholder group that can craft a multi-sector plan for aging. Such a plan is critically important for our state given that:

- every single one of us, no matter our current age, is aging;
- the proportion of older adults in Oregon will soon be larger than the proportion of younger adults (and already is, in some counties);
- aging affects all aspects of our lives, including our economic, social, psychological, and physical lives; and
- we all deserve to live our best lives, whether we live in rural or urban Oregon.

Living our best lives will be possible only with much-needed planning - across all sectors, geographies, and generations - for programs and services.

We urge you to support HB 2869-2 to bring together a group of stakeholders, ideally including a representative of Age-Friendly Portland, that can create the framework for a multi-sector plan for aging. HB 2869-2 will lead to proper investments by our state to allow us to be resilient for future generations.

Please, help to make our state a good place to grow up and grow old, and vote to report out with a “do pass” recommendation on HB 2869. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Neal, Ph.D.
Newberg, Oregon