



March 20, 2023

Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

RE: Support for SB 99-2

To the Committee:

I'm Jim Clay, Program Manager for the Aging Well Program of Cascade AIDS Project, serving the greater Portland area. We support the wellbeing of older adults living with or affected by HIV.

I'm writing to offer my strongest possible support for and endorsement of SB 99-2, which will provide an opportunity for Oregon to establish and implement an LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights. This was developed as an outcome of the 2021 Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey and in response to extensive input by diverse stakeholders, including participants from the Aging Well Program of Cascade AIDS Project.

We strongly support this bill and urge you to forward it to Ways & Means.

LGBTQ+ older people rely heavily on community service providers for care as they age. This is especially true of those of us living with and aging with HIV. According to the US Centers for Disease Control, more than half of people living with HIV in the United States are 50 years or older. In Oregon, the majority of those are gay and bisexual men. This Bill of Rights will greatly protect their interests in their later life.

I would be pleased to expand on my support for this bill, or answer any questions. Please let me know if I can respond to your interest or concerns.

To your health,

Jim Clay, Program Manager
Aging Well Program of Cascade AIDS Project, Portland, Oregon