



March 20, 2023

*Delivered orally*

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and committee members:

**Interim Chief Executive Officer**  
Emily Gilliland

My name is Jonathan Frochtzvaj; I'm the Public-Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. CAP operates Our House, a residential-care facility in Portland for people living with HIV.

**Board of Directors**

**President**  
Miguel Villarreal  
Kaiser Permanente

I am testifying on behalf of Our House and CAP in support of Senate Bill 99, with the –2 amendment. This legislation is the product of the first statewide community-needs assessment of LGBTQ+ older adults in Oregon, commissioned by the Oregon Department of Human Services. An impressive 1,402 people participated in the assessment survey, and their responses illuminated many challenges that this historically invisible community faces. Notably, nearly one out of every five respondents living in a residential setting reported LGBTQ+ discrimination in their housing, and almost half reported not disclosing their LGBTQ+ identity to their peers.

**Vice President**  
Kris Young  
Nike

**Secretary**  
William E. Spigner  
Nike

SB 99-2 would address these issues by establishing a Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults to advise the Governor and the Director of ODHHS, and by creating a bill of rights for LGBTQIA2S+ older-adult residents of long-term care facilities, including such basic rights as the right to be called by the name of your choice and to wear the clothing of your choice if other residents can wear that clothing.

**Treasurer**  
Edwin Kietzman  
Pacific Seafood Group

**At Large**  
Daniel Borgen  
New Seasons Market

**At Large**  
Natalia Williams  
Bayside Communities

**Tracy A. Curtis**  
Wells Fargo Bank

**Eric Garcia**  
Multnomah County

**CJ Grub**  
R1

**Daniel Guilfoyle**  
Native American Youth &  
Family Center (NAYA)

Because of the disproportionate impact of HIV on the LGBTQ+ community, CAP's Our House residential-care facility is and always has been an LGBTQ-affirming space. But the facility is small, with only 14 beds. The rest of the long-term care landscape in Oregon is a highly uneven terrain of affirming and not-so-affirming facilities and staff—which can look more like a minefield for LGBTQ+ older adults needing long-term care. Thanks to increasing cultural acceptance, more LGBTQ+ people than ever are living authentically into old age. Oregon's aging system must be able to welcome and effectively serve this growing population, and SB 99-2 represents the community's collective advice on how to achieve that. We hope that you will take that advice and advance this legislation. Thank you for listening.

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