



Oregon Office of Rural Health
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March 21, 2023

Dear Chair Gelser-Blouin and Members of the Committee ,

The Oregon Office of Rural Health encourages you to support SB 99 with -2 amendments.

SB 99 requires the Department of Human Services to study their processes for delivering services to aging adults. These processes have a big impact on Oregon's aging rural communities. This legislation will have a significant statewide positive impact on persons with disabilities that are members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It will improve health outcomes, access to accessible housing, and long-term supports. SB 99 supports Oregon's adopted Oregon State Plan for Independent Living and will bring Oregon in line with multiple states and municipalities that have adopted these laws.

This legislation creates a Commission to look at gaps in services and equity. Additionally, it will look at how to improve access to services. SB 99-2 also creates a long-term care bill of rights which will help provide protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and HIVE status in long-term care settings. It will improve access and equity to state programs and services.

I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Duehmig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Duehmig, Director
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