

March 20, 2023

Senate Human Services Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members:

RE: Senate Bill 99-2 Amendments - The LGBTQIA2S+ Bill of Rights for Older Adults

HIV Alliance asks you to pass Senate Bill 99-2 Amendments, The LGBTQIA2S+ Bill of Rights for Older Adults. Your support is critical to the health of LGBTQIA2S+ people.

HIV Alliance is a nonprofit committed to supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections throughout Oregon. As an agency, we provide wrap-around interventions that address the social determinants of health to protect people living with and at risk for HIV in our community. At HIV Alliance, we are dedicated to reducing HIV-related health disparities that impact LGBTQIA2S+ and BIPOC communities to create a more just and equitable Oregon.

Our work allows us to be intimately familiar with the intersectional issues that people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) and who are part of the LGBTQIA2S+ community face. According to an [article published in the NIH](#), "fifty percent of PLWH in the United States are now older than 50 years of age, and by 2030 70% will be older than 50 years of age." This information is important because people in the LGBTQIA2S+ community are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Additionally, PLWH often experiences an early onset of and have exacerbated age-related issues even when the disease is well managed that diminishes their overall quality of life according to the [NIH](#). Therefore, the amount of care needed by people experiencing these diseases part of the LGBTQIA2S+ will be increasing. Unfortunately, LGBTQIA2S+ PLWH older people experience stigmatization and discrimination in long-term care facilities by staff and other residents, where they are most vulnerable due to higher isolation rates. Access to compassionate care at all stages of life is critical for HIV care and overall health.

Establishing a Commission to investigate the inequities in service provided to Oregon's older adults will help protect them from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status in long-term care settings. This amendment also establishes training for care providers and staff surrounding care for older adults who are LGBTQIA2S+ and PLWH to ensure these historically marginalized populations receive the care they deserve. The passage of this bill will help the current and incoming generations of older adults thrive without the fear of discrimination.

HIV Alliance appreciates your consideration of Senate Bill 99-2 Amendments. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Renee Yandel  
Executive Director