

Submitter: Naomi Slater

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB1591

I am an employee with 1st CHOICE, a senior housing & care referral agency that has been helping consumers locate care since 1993. Nearly half our clients select an adult care home as their preferred option. Because we serve both the Greater Seattle and Greater Portland area, we have seen substantial benefits to BOTH providers and consumers now that the state of WA allows homes that meet certain parameters to have a higher number of residents. Providers are able to afford 24-hour staffing and two-person shifts when occupancy is allowed to be higher. Providers also take steps to add onto their existing homes to give more space to residents. Many fantastic homes are frequently full, so having additional beds available will support more seniors.