



Subject: Support for SB 1591 - Addressing Oregon's Housing and Economic Challenge

Petronella Donovan
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February 12, 2024

Dear Senator Gelser and Committee Members,

My name is Petronella Donovan, and I am an adult foster care home owner with over 25 years of experience in the industry. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1591.

In 1997, we built our first adult care home, and since then, we have remained dedicated to providing quality care to our residents. I am enthusiastic about the possibility of advancing this critical issue that directly impacts adult foster homes, hospital discharge staff, and the broader community.

SB 1591 is instrumental in addressing the post-acute care crisis in Oregon by providing additional post-acute care beds in the community. This, in turn, allows hospitals to discharge patients who no longer require acute care, creating a positive ripple effect for our healthcare system.

Access to more inpatient hospital beds not only benefits the patients but also aids emergency rooms by facilitating the movement of patients into acute beds. This proactive approach can help alleviate the strain on emergency rooms and prevent situations where hospitals are on "divert."

Currently, adult foster care homes have declined in recent years from 3000 adult care homes in 2007 to about 1300 today. The adult care foster homes who choose to meet the criteria of SB 1591 would be eligible to accept an additional two residents for a total of seven residents.

Moreover, we are facing a housing crisis in Oregon, and the rising cost of living and minimum wage have added significant challenges. The increased financial burden makes it exceptionally hard for us to continue providing the much-needed care for our elderly residents. SB 1591 becomes crucial in addressing these economic challenges by providing an opportunity for adult foster care homes to expand their capacity, helping us navigate the financial strains.

As an adult foster care home owner, I am eager to be part of the solution to Oregon's post-acute care, housing, and economic challenges. I wholeheartedly support SB 1591 and kindly ask for your endorsement of this important legislation.

I am fully aware of and prepared to comply with the existing oversight rules and regulations, including practices such as evacuation drills in case of fire and ensuring personal space per resident. Our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment is unwavering, and we understand the responsibilities that come with caring for individuals in our home.

We view our residents and their families as an extended family, and we embrace the opportunity to continue creating meaningful connections within our community.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I appreciate your time and dedication to addressing the needs of our community. I sincerely hope for your support of SB 1591.

Sincerely,

Petronella Donovan
Independent Adult Care Home Association