



Senate Committee on Human Services
Testimony in Opposition to SB 1591
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February 14, 2024

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

We oppose SB 1591 which would allow Adult Foster Homes that currently serve a maximum of five residents to serve up to seven. We join with the concerns expressed in testimony submitted by the Campaign for Seniors & People with Disabilities, of which we are a member.

Adults Foster Homes play a crucial role in allowing Oregonians to live in home and community based settings. One of the key strengths of the Adult Foster Home model in Oregon is the emphasis on providing a home-like environment for serving five or fewer older individuals or younger adults with disabilities. Entities that serve more residents than Adult Foster Homes have increased licensing and regulatory requirements to ensure the safety and quality of life and care necessary for the number of residents.

Increasing the number of residents up to 40% could have a profound effect on the quality of care and experience of all residents. Under this bill current residents would have no say in the decision and could very well experience a profound change in their living situation, contrary to what they and their families determined was in their best interest.

The limited size in a home ensures residential autonomy, privacy, adequate individual and shared space is sufficient for all members of the household. In this proposal, it is left to the providers to attest that the increase of residents will not adversely affect the health, safety, or quality of life of the current residents. We have serious concerns about this lack of oversight.

We recognize we have a growing population of older Oregonians and share the concern that we are losing adult foster homes in our state. However, we do not believe that the solution for this problem is to change the structure, system and safeguards established for home and community based residential settings. Instead, as Adult Foster Home providers testified to last session, the reimbursement and payment structure rate is wholly outdated. Rather than increasing the number of residents in Adult Foster Care Homes we urge that all the stakeholders be convened to address how we can better fund *all providers* so we can ensure a robust and stable adult foster home provider network.