

Submitter: John Mullin
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1591

To the Senate Committee on Human Services: My name is John Mullin, and I am an advocate living in Oregon City. I testified against expanding the number of Adult Foster residents in 2019. In testifying today, I am renewing my opposition. By way of background, I was a founder and director of Clackamas County Social Services, and I was the director for 22 years. In the early 1980s, we worked on the creation of an adult foster home system. We recruited and trained providers, and passed a local ordinance for registration, prior to the development of state laws and rules. Our interest back then was to encourage people to open their homes to take in residents, many of whom were in more restrictive settings such as nursing homes. The promise was to create home like environments, and the program grew rapidly. We emphasized quality along with compliance to our ordinance. It was our perspective that we needed to ensure that residents would be safe and well cared for. We supported adequate rates of reimbursement, and I continue to advocate for higher rates. If the issue of low reimbursement is the issue for providers, it seems to me that rather than increase volume, we should make sure that rates cover the costs of having five or fewer residents. I also think that those interested in serving more than five residents, should consider converting to residential care facilities. Thank you for your consideration.