



Senate Committee on Human Services

**Testimony in Support of SB 228**

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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.

AARP supports SB 228. Family councils are a vital component of a compassionate and effective long-term care system.

Family councils are essential for several reasons:

1. They provide a structured platform for family members to voice their concerns, share experiences, and advocate for their loved ones' needs.
2. They offer emotional support and empowerment to family members who may feel isolated or overwhelmed by the challenges of having a loved one in long-term care. By coming together, families can share resources, strategies, and encouragement.
3. They play a crucial role in monitoring and enhancing the quality of care provided in facilities. They can identify issues, suggest improvements, and work collaboratively with staff to implement changes that benefit all residents.

We look forward to reviewing the amendments and moving forward this important protection for families and residents.