



OREGON HEALTH

CARE ASSOCIATION

Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing

February 3, 2026

House Committee on Behavioral Health
State Representative Hai Pham, Chair
State Representative Cyrus Javadi, Vice-Chair
State Representative Darcy Edwards, Vice-Chair
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4115 – Improving State Background Check Process

Chair Pham, Vice-Chairs Edwards and Javadi, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents long term care providers including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, residential care, and memory care-endorsed facilities, as well as in-home care agencies. Our mission is to promote high quality care for older adults and people with disabilities. Each day more than 75,000 Oregonians rely on these services.

We strongly support HB 4115 and want to extend our deep appreciation to the bill's sponsors, many of whom have been tirelessly for years to improve the state's background check system.

OHCA's focus is on the provisions of HB 4115 dealing with background check improvements. Care workers who serve Medicaid beneficiaries in their homes or in community-based care settings are legally required to complete a criminal background check through the state's Background Check Unit (BCU).

For years, advocates have sought to modernize this system and remove barriers while ensuring safeguards and quality care for consumers. Today, caregivers often wait weeks or even months for a required background check before they can start working, leading many workers to seek employment in other fields. This is happening while demand for services is increasing as Oregon's population ages. Oregon must make it easier, not harder, for workers to be caregivers.

Additionally, workers must be rechecked every two years, adding to the already long waitlist. These bottlenecks worsen workforce shortages, strain providers, and limit access to care. The

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires re-checks every five years, unlike Oregon's two years.

HB 4115 extends the re-check cycle from two years to three years for caregivers aligning Oregon with many other states (including Minnesota, Colorado, and South Carolina) allowing BCU to speed up workforce entry, and maintaining safety of individuals receiving services.

HB 4115 also aligns background check rules for caregivers across more settings and thereby expands portability. This simple change reduces duplication and should hopefully accelerate hiring.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and we urge you to support HB 4115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Batlan".

Libby Batlan
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
Oregon Health Care Association