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Date: March 3, 2026

To: Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: LeadingAge Oregon

Subject: **Support SB 1575 – Hospice Safeguards**

SB 1575 adds important safeguards that can help reduce hospice fraud and make Oregon a less attractive target for fraudulent operators.

Hospice care is intended to be a lifeline for individuals at the end of life, focusing on comfort, pain management, and compassionate support for patients and families facing terminal illness. Across the country, however, serious hospice fraud is occurring and harming patients and families.

Fraud affects individuals who are legitimately eligible for hospice care when unscrupulous operators maximize profits by providing substandard care or, in some cases, no care at all. Reports from other states describe operators skipping caregiver visits, failing to provide medications or medical equipment, and neglecting essential end-of-life supports while billing for services that were never delivered. In several states, operators have rapidly obtained hospice licenses, billed Medicare, and transferred those licenses before regulators were able to intervene, resulting in patient harm.

Fraud also affects individuals who are not eligible for hospice services. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the U.S. Department of Justice, bad actors have enrolled people who are not terminally ill, sometimes without their knowledge or consent, and billed Medicare and Medicaid for services never provided.

SB 1575 is a reasonable response given current funding and enforcement constraints. While additional reforms may be appropriate over time, this bill pauses the issuance of new hospice licenses, with appropriate exceptions, and strengthens safeguards such as background checks to help ensure hospice services in Oregon are delivered by qualified and ethical providers.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Oregon supports SB 1575.

Respectfully submitted,

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LeadingAge Oregon