

March 11, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1066

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlotte Kreftmeyer and I'm an adult foster home provider in Ontario, Oregon. I'm writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 1066, which makes permanent exceptions for adult foster homes from having to install sprinkler systems. As someone who runs an adult foster home, I can tell you this bill is really important to us. It helps us keep our doors open and continue caring for the people who depend on us without being hit with huge costs we can't afford.

Adult foster homes are like family homes for people who need help with everyday things, ADLs and IADL support, someone to comfort and connect with them. We're not big facilities; we're small, residential houses that take in five or fewer residents. We offer a more personal and home-like setting, which is what makes us different from bigger places.

This bill does two big things that really matter to us:

1. **It keeps our homes open, stops us from going broke and doesn't deter new homes from opening.** Installing sprinkler systems would cost tens of thousands of dollars, and most of us just can't afford that. We're already dealing with rising costs for everything else—food, utilities, supplies—and adding this huge expense would force a lot of us to shut down. That would mean fewer homes for the people who need us, and it would put more pressure on the system.
2. **It keeps safety a priority but doesn't make rules that don't fit our homes.** We already have to follow strict rules to make sure our residents are safe, like being able to get everyone out of the house in three minutes during an emergency. If we can't do that, then we have to install sprinklers. That makes sense. But for homes like ours that can meet the evacuation standard, sprinklers just aren't necessary, and they'd be a huge financial burden.

Adult foster homes are more than just places to live—they're real homes for the people who live here. We provide a sense of community, dignity, and the care these individuals need in a place that feels like family. If we're forced to install sprinkler systems, a lot of us won't be able to keep going, and that would hurt the people who rely on us the most. And if this bill only applies to new homes, that's just as hard—because many good providers won't want to open their business if this is part of the requirement.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 1066. It's not just about helping small businesses like ours—it's about making sure vulnerable adults have a safe, supportive place to call home.

Thank you,

Charlotte Kreftmeyer

Adult Foster Home Owner, Malheur County