

2.13.24

Support of Bill SB 1591

My name is Tory Thompson. I have worked in the senior housing and care industry for over 40 years. In the 7.5 years I have worked more closely with Adult Foster Home (AFH) operators as my role at Providence ElderPlace PACE includes orienting and contracting with AFH operators to provide care to members of PACE. The staffing ratios in AFH's are much better compared to those of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and memory care facilities. However, I have noticed the rates paid to AFH's does not even come close to the rates at these other facilities.

I see this as a problem in three ways.

1. The cost of a mortgage and caregiver wages today can barely be met with five residents in the AFH.
2. When I speak to ElderPlace staff or Medicaid case managers they tell me they might be making 30 – 40 calls looking for placement for one Medicaid waiver client. These Medicaid waiver rates are half of a private pay rate and an open room is hard to find because AFH operator cannot operate a successful business with five residents in the home on Medicaid.
3. Families are exhausted caring for their elder loved ones and trying/waiting to get them into care. Lost wages for employees, lost services for their employers.

Expanding AFH homes to six or seven residents will give the operators a better chance at running a successful business. I plead for you to increase the capacity to seven residents. My hope is that our needy Oregonian seniors on Medicaid waivers would have a better chance of finding a placement in an AFH and receive the compassionate care they deserved in their last years.