



Oregon & Southwest  
Washington Chapter

March 18, 2025

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum and members of the Senate Human Services committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 811, a bill that adds new requirement for certain types of long-term care facilities. Thanks also to Committee Chair Gelser Blouin, for convening a stakeholder workgroup to tackle the complex overlay of laws and regulations around this issue and hear a wide variety of perspectives. The Alzheimer's Association largely supports this bill but has a few concerns.

In Oregon:

- 79,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Oregon.
- 9.5% of people aged 45 and older have subjective cognitive decline.
- 170,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Oregon.
- 229 million hours of unpaid care provided by Alzheimer's caregivers.
- \$5.2 billion is the value of the unpaid care.
- \$317 million is the cost of Alzheimer's to the state Medicaid program.

To better serve this growing population of older Oregonians with dementia and their families, Oregon law must ensure that all residential care facilities are held to a high standard of care. We have two major concerns around this bill:

We are concerned about the lack of clarity around the term "substantial compliance," especially as the term is used to reduce frequency of actions that facilitate oversight of facilities and foster homes by ODHS. AARP testified about this issue, and we echo their concerns.

We would also like to see language that mandates unscheduled inspections separate from the license renewal process no less than once every 12 months (amending Section 5 (c)).



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This bill, while imperfect, is a step in the right direction, and the Alzheimer's Association supports its intent.

Many thanks,

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