

Submitter: Richard Davison  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB1591

I stand in support of SB 1591. I have been associated with the foster care in Oregon since 1976, first as manager of the Children's Services Division foster care certification unit in Multnomah county from 1978-1980. Later as adult foster certifier in Multnomah County for the Senior Services Division from 1981-1985. Finally as owner and operator of Adult Living Alternatives, a foster home referral service based in Portland since 1985. I have been present as the adult foster home program has transitioned from a limited, neighborhood service for elders and people with disabilities to a full-fledged, community-based, affordable, homelike care option for those seeking alternatives to the institutional setting of costly nursing facilities.

When my father could no longer live at home with my mother, I arranged his placement in an adult foster home that met his needs in a professional and compassionate manner for the remainder of his life. My mother and I couldn't have more pleased with the warmth and expertise the caregivers displayed as they took Dad into their home and hearts.

I consider myself fortunate to be associated with the adult foster care industry, run by a group of sensitive and capable individuals well suited to the lifestyle and livelihood they chose for themselves and their families. Some of the most admirable citizens of our country have devoted themselves to the challenging but rewarding task of looking after the care needs of Oregon's most vulnerable adults..

I have come to learn of the successes that some former Oregonian adult home owners have had in other states where care homes are allowed to have as many as ten or twelve residents receiving care. From what I know, they have discharged their responsibilities with an unsurprising professionalism and good judgment.

My preference is that the rules be revised to allow as many as seven residents in adult care homes with a required evaluation, perhaps similar to the Acuity Based Staffing Tool utilized in Assisted Living Facilities, to determine the number of caregivers needed on day and night shifts. One resident needing constant, complicated care can be a challenge for any caregiver. Additional staff may be needed if a single caregiver may be at risk of being overburdened.

Please let me know if there are questions about this testimony.

Sincerely, Richard Davison.