



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

February 25, 2025

Residential Ombudsman & Public Guardian Advisory Board

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To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 134 - Right for long-term care residents to have electronic monitoring devices in their rooms

As members of the Oregon Residential Ombudsman Public Guardian Advisory Board, we are writing in strong support of SB 134, a bill that gives long-term care residents the right to have monitoring devices in their rooms.

ROPGAB oversees the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) including its programs of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman (RFO), the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and the Oregon Public Guardian (OPG). The statutory directives for the Board also include advising the legislative Assembly on issues related to the agency, its programs, and the Oregonians served by the agency. The ROPGAB Board members represent decades of experience in geriatrics, mental health care, brain injury, long-term care, elder law, guardianship, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, and as caregivers ourselves.

SB 134 allows residents of long-term care facilities to have the right to use electronic monitoring devices in their rooms/apartments. We feel it is important to allow residents the option of utilizing these devices for care and connection with their families and health care providers.

- The Act provides residents the option to use these devices in their own homes – their care setting
- The Act provides restrictions of use as well as a consent to use signed by the resident or their representatives and includes roommate consent, if needed
- The Act also provides civil penalties for improper usage of these devices

We believe this is important for residents in residential care settings to have the option to use these devices if they, or their families, want to. Electronic monitoring devices can help residents stay in touch with their families and care providers and should not be prohibited from use in what is considered a resident's "home" setting.

We urge you to pass SB 134 in this legislative session and are available for testimony or additional information if needed.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams

ROPGAB Board Chair

The Residential Ombudsman & Public Guardian Advisory Board monitors the agency, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and advises the Governor and Legislature pursuant to ORS 441.416-418. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and four by the Legislative Leadership.

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