

HB 3378: CARE Act

Today I am presenting HB 3378 to you, also known as the CARE Act.

CARE stands for Caregiver Advise, Record, and Enable, and the goal of this legislation is to ensure that family caregivers are included as part of the care team when a person is hospitalized.

AARP Oregon brought this forward, and I am supporting it because I feel it will improve the health of our patients, but also help the family caregivers in Oregon the support they need. Family caregivers are the core of our natural support system in Oregon, and they provide over \$5.5 billion worth of unpaid care in Oregon every year.

After a loved one is hospitalized, often their family members take on the role of caregiver for the first time, and are asked to provide care they never expected to. This care may take the form of wound care, medication management, physically transferring a person from bed to wheelchair, or other tasks. To do these tasks right, you need the right instruction, or the patient may end up back in the hospital with an infection or medication reaction.

The CARE Act is a bipartisan proposal that will increase the likelihood family caregivers can provide good quality care at home.

It requires hospitals to adopt policies that will do several things:

1. Identify if a patient has a family caregiver, and record their contact information;
2. Notify the caregiver when the patient is to be discharged from the hospital; and
3. Provide a demonstration of the care the caregiver is expected to provide to the patient at home.

Many hospitals already do much of this, but this bill will ensure that all Oregon hospitals are working to involve family caregivers in the care of the patient. The bill is also crafted in negotiations with the hospitals to provide some flexibility to take into account the acuity level of the patient and needs of the caregiver.

Mr. Bartholomew from AARP will be able to provide more details and answer any questions you have.

I urge your support for HB 3378 as **a step forward in improving the ability of our family caregivers to take care of their loved ones.** Thank you.