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Senate Democrats Pass Protections for LGBTQIA+ Oregonians in Long Term and Community-Based Care Facilities

SALEM, **Oregon** - Today, <u>Senate Bill 99</u> passed the Oregon Senat. This bill establishes a bill of rights for LGBTQIA2S+ older adult residents of long term and community-based care facilities.

In 2021, <u>the Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey</u> found that 50 percent of people aged 55 or older who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, or two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) are struggling to get <u>their service needs met</u>.

SB 99 takes steps to ensure that the needs of older LGBTQIA2S+ Oregonians are met without discrimination, and establishes an LGBTQIA2S+ subcommittee of The Governor's Commission on Senior Services to identify gaps and barriers to services.

"All our elders deserve to age and be cared for with dignity and respect," **said Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton and SW Portland)**. "I am proud that we are taking this step to ensure that elders in my community, the LGBTQ+ community, are afforded the same services and care as every other Oregonian."

SB 99 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, SB 99 now moves to the House for consideration.

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