



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Legislation helps Oregonians find quality, affordable in-home care**

*SB 1542B gives seniors, people with disabilities greater independence, safety, and peace of mind*

SALEM – Today the Oregon Senate approved legislation to make in-home care more accessible for Oregon seniors and people with disabilities. Senate Bill 1542B, which enables all Oregonians to choose and hire qualified caregivers through the existing Oregon Home Care Commission’s registry, passed on a 20-10 vote.

“For many seniors and people with disabilities who need help with daily household tasks, SB 1542B can make the difference between moving to a care facility and living independently,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), chief sponsor of the bill. “Expanding access to the state’s in-home care registry gives more aging and disabled Oregonians and their families access to safe, affordable options for quality in-home care.”

Currently, only individuals covered by Medicaid may hire caregivers through the Oregon Home Care Commission Registry and Referral System. Testimony heard in recent public hearings indicated that Oregonians seeking home care workers on their own face difficulties finding quality, affordable in-home care for elderly or disabled family members and loved ones.

“Finding quality in-home care can be difficult for elderly and disabled Oregonians in rural communities,” said Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford). “This legislation improves access to quality in-home care for Oregonians throughout the state, reduces costs, and eases the burden of finding and hiring quality care providers for Oregonians caring for seniors and family members with disabilities.”

“For the thousands of Oregonians already caring for aging and elderly parents, this legislation means greater safety, accessibility, and peace of mind,” said Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-NW Portland/Beaverton), chief sponsor of the bill. “We’re helping caregivers find safe, quality care for their loved ones by expanding access to this successful program to all Oregonians.”

SB 1542B will allow Oregonians at all income levels to access to the state registry and hire a trained, background-checked caregiver who best meets their needs. The registry system includes qualified caregivers in all 36 Oregon counties, and has been commended by AARP and *The New York Times* for helping seniors and people with disabilities remain at home.

Senate Bill 1542B now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for further action.

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