

January 31, 2007

Senator / Representative

Address line

Address line

Dear _____,

On behalf of the Lane Council of Governments Board of Directors, I write to urge your support for fair and "equitable" funding for the "transfer Area Agencies on Aging" that are coordinating the provision of long term care services with Medicaid for the State.

The delivery of quality services to our most vulnerable populations is of paramount importance. In Oregon, long-term care services are primarily delivered through the state's 17 Area Agencies on Aging and Disability Services (AAADs). In parts of the State where the AAADs do not provide services to Medicaid clients, the State Department of Human Services delivers the services. Historically, DHS has funded its own field offices much more generously than it has funded the AAADs, resulting in an "Equity gap".

As (a member, Chair, Vice-Chair?) of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors, I receive regular reports on the work accomplished by Senior & Disabled Services, an Area Agency on Aging and Disability, and a division of LCOG. Without equitable funding, seniors and people with disabilities in Lane County cannot receive the same level of service as those residing in counties served by DHS offices. To put it simply, with significantly less funding to administer the program, agencies such as ours cannot afford to hire as many staff as those offices operated by DHS. Therefore, our staff members must carry higher caseloads resulting in fewer hours of availability to each client. Additionally, waiting periods for intake appointments are longer, as currently a Lane County resident must wait three to four weeks for an appointment to receive help with their care.

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You, as a State (Senator/Representative) for Lane County, have the power to directly impact the level of service provided to seniors and people with disabilities in Lane County. On behalf of our most vulnerable citizens, I urge you to please support equitable funding for AAADs.

Sincerely,

Name of Board Member

Elected Position

DRAFT