



# Oregon

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## Mary Jaeger, Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman



Mary Jaeger is currently serving her second 4-year term as Oregon's LTC Ombudsman. She was first appointed in 2009 by Governor Kulongoski, and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. Mary was re-appointed and re-confirmed in 2013 by Governor Kitzhaber. The Oregon Office of the LTC Ombudsman is an independent state agency advocating for the 43,000 residents of licensed LTC facilities. In July of 2014, the agency began the implementation of SB 1553 and SB 626 to create both a Statewide Public Guardian program, and, expand traditional Ombudsman advocacy into licensed facilities for the Developmentally Disabled and Mental Health populations within the state.

Mary is a Portland native and a first-generation American of German heritage. She is the fourth of five children born to immigrant parents who came to the US in the 1950's. Mary was raised around a host of spunky elderly aunts and uncles who first ignited her passion for the elderly and long-term care issues. When Mary was ten years old, her Mother suffered a debilitating stroke creating the need for around-the-clock care by the extended family members for 12 years. Her Mother spent a short time in a nursing home before her death, which further inspired Mary to focus her career goals on long-term care, caregiving and aging policy.

Mary Jaeger is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon and holds Masters Degrees in Gerontology and Public Administration from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and Washington, DC. A pianist by training, Mary partially funded her college and graduate education through piano and academic scholarships. While attending grad school in Los Angeles, Mary lived for free in a Board and Care facility in exchange for serving as the receptionist, activity director and occasional driver for the residents. Throughout her career she has served on numerous non-profit boards and commissions focused on the elderly and children's causes.

Highlights of Mary's professional background include 15 years of non-profit long-term care management at the local and national levels for the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Francis, followed by two years in geriatric institutional pharmacy. Prior to her state service, Mary spent 10 years working on behalf of abused and neglected children, while leading CASA for Children in Portland. While working at CASA, she and her husband, Jerry, also served as advocates for 14 children on 7 different cases before the court. Mary Jaeger has been honored with special awards in recognition of her community service by St. Mary's Academy, City of Beaverton, Willamette University and most recently by CASA for Children of Portland.

In her spare time she and her husband enjoy traveling, searching for American pottery from the 1930's and continually remodeling their 1920's bungalow in NE Portland.

