



**OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

May 24, 2019

Mr. Fairborz Pakseresht, Director  
Department of Human Services  
500 Summer St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Universal Provider Number for Long-Term Care Workers

Dear Director Pakseresht:

As you know, Medicaid-funded home care and personal support workers provide similar services, yet they are subject to different background eligibility standards. A home care worker who wants to also be a personal support worker must pass two background checks and is assigned two Medicaid provider numbers. This dual process is duplicative and administratively burdensome. Creating and implementing a universal provider standard would streamline the Background Check Unit process and reduce administrative burden for home care and personal support workers.

In 2015, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 774, which required the Oregon Home Care Commission to identify opportunities for greater efficiency in Oregon's home care and personal support systems. The final report produced in compliance with this bill recommended implementing a Universal Provider Number for long-term care workers and adopting a single fingerprinting standard for the Background Check Unit.

During the 2019 session, House Bill 2569 highlighted that there has been little movement on the Universal Provider Number issue. Accordingly, I would like to request that your agency examine this further and report on the issues raised by House Bill 2569 to the Legislature during next year's session.

It would be helpful if the agency's report could include:

- Barriers to implementing a Universal Provider Number;
- Steps needed to overcome any barriers;
- Operational needs for implementing a Universal Provider Number; and
- Explanation of who would qualify for a Universal Provider Number.

Thank you for your time and work on this matter.

Sincerely,

State Representative Tina Kotek  
House District 44, North/NE Portland  
Speaker of the House

State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer  
House District 46, SE/NE Portland

cc: Ashley Carson-Cottingham  
Lilia Teninty