

Senior & Disabled Services' Legislative Priorities for 2005,
Including Analyses of How They Fared in the
Governor's Recommended Budget for 2005-07, and
Identification of Relevant Bills being Considered by the Legislature
(local bill sponsors identified)

Background:

One of Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS) responsibilities as the Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County is to serve as an advocate for those we serve. To this end, S&DS, with the help of the members of its Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils, endeavors to inform and educate members of the State Legislature about the needs and concerns of seniors and people with disabilities. To facilitate this work, every even-numbered year S&DS develops a set of priorities for the upcoming legislative session which convenes in January of the odd-numbered year.

The issues for the 2005 legislative session identified by S&DS' Advisory Councils and adopted as agency priorities by the Lane Council of Governments' Board of Directors are set forth below in summary form. Additional information provided for each priority includes: 1) a brief analysis of how it fared in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2005-07, and 2) the identification of 2005 legislative bills which pertain to it.

S&DS' Priorities for the 2005 Legislative Session:

- ❖ Restore funding for needed long term care services (Medicaid Levels 14-17, and full restoration of the biennial appropriation for Oregon Project Independence). ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget? Not funded.*** *Eligibility for Medicaid long term care continues to be limited to clients at Levels 1-13. Further, the Governor's Budget caps Oregon's home and community-based care caseload at 21,100 persons. Since 24,000 currently receive these services, intakes will be closed and new applicants for these services will be put on a waiting list. Regarding Oregon Project Independence (OPI), biennial funding is reduced from \$9.7 million to \$3.9 million, and persons served are reduced from 2,150 to 950 persons, statewide.*

Relevant 2005 bills:

DHS budget (including Medicaid long term care): HB 5038
OPI bills: SB 870 (Morrisette), HB 2555 (Ackerman, Farr),
HB 2587, and HB 2626

- ❖ Restore funds for health care (OHP Standard) and prescription drugs (Medically Needy Program). ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** Not funded. *OHP Standard continues as a scaled-down program for 24,000 individuals with no State General Funds committed to it. Coverage for prescription drugs, via the Medically Needy Program or other mechanism, is not funded.*

Relevant 2005 bills:

DHS budget (including Medicaid health care): HB 5038

Restoration of cigarette tax dedicated to OHP: HB 2048

Oregon Prescription Drug Program: SB 329 (Morrisette)

Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Program: SB 598

- ❖ Adequately staff Adult Protective Services (APS). ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** *This issue is not addressed fully; additional funds (\$.43 million GF) are invested by the Governor to reclassify some existing Case Managers, but no additional staff are added to perform Adult Protective Services work.*

Relevant 2005 bill:

DHS budget (including Medicaid health care): HB 5038

- ❖ Expand funding for special transportation services. ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** Not funded. *As a result, resources for Special Transportation will remain at its current level.*

- ❖ Create an ombudsman for users of managed health care services. ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** Not addressed.

Relevant 2005 bill:

SB 776 (Morrisette)

- ❖ Keep the promise implied by the enactment of HB 2288 (2003) – fund “equity” for Area Agencies on Aging and Disability Services. ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** Not funded. *Due to this fact, S&DS/LCOG and other local government agencies in western Oregon performing similar work will be forced to operate with approximately 15% less funds than are provided by the Legislature to comparable DHS offices in southern and eastern Oregon. Since the administration of Oregon's long term care, medical, and financial assistance programs at the local level is a staff intensive business, less money for these local government agencies means less staff in their respective service areas to respond to people's needs.*

Relevant 2005 bills:

SB 770 (Morrisette) and HB 2573

- ❖ Revise one-sided DHS contracts with local governments for the provision of human services. ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** *Not addressed.* *This is an administrative matter, but legislative intervention is needed to resolve it.*

Relevant 2005 bill:

Bill just dropped, House Bill number to be assigned

(Ackerman)

- ❖ Adequately fund counties' services to assist military veterans obtain federal veterans benefits. ***How addressed in the Governor's Recommended Budget?*** *Not funded.*

Relevant 2005 bills:

SB 10, SB 763 (Morrisette, Prozanski, and Verger), and
HB 2700.