



2014 Legislative Preview

The February Session

O4AD, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities, representing the 17 Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities in Oregon, advocates for the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities.

The 2014 Legislative Session, "The February Session" will open on February 3 and is restricted to 35 days. The projected end date is March 9. Due to this timeframe, it is a very tight schedule that moves bills and other decisions very quickly. O4AD's priority during the February session is to continue to advocate for services and supports that help seniors and people with disabilities remain as independent as possible with decisions for care being consumer directed.

There will be a number of proposals coming forward in February that are of interest to O4AD and advocates. Some of those issues include:

- Special Purpose Appropriation from changes made in the Senior Medical Expense Deduction
- Silver Alert program establishment
- Elder Abuse Task Force proposals
- Home care for private pay clients
- Durable Medical Equipment pilot project
- Basic Health Study
- Public Guardianship Pilot project
- Investments in Senior Mental Health
- Investments in services and supports through Older Americans Act programs and evidence based health promotion and disease prevention
- Oregon Project Independence proposed pilot to expand services to younger people with disabilities

O4AD will be working closely with these issues and will continue to update advocates as these proposals move through the process. As bills are formally released, we will have more information to share.

We encourage advocates to remain engaged and involved during the February session to make sure the voice of seniors and people with disabilities is heard by legislators.

Please contact O4AD for more information as the session progresses. www.o4ad.org or info@o4ad.org.