

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 728

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 1:25 PM

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Hearing Date: March 14, 2023 8:00 AM

Linda Litzinger

self

Austin, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to comment virtually. I am FOR HB 728 and thank Rep Rose for filing this bill. An inter-agency aging services council is a good idea.

I wish to comment on retired Commissioner Weisenbaum's testimony that Medicare Advantage and Medicaid should be combined into managed care by this future committee. Many people, including retired military, have additional private insurance that pays to the last penny so that Medicaid is never charged. In our family's experience, MCO's completely ignore that private insurance, especially for adult patients, and try to deny services so they can make a better profit. . There is no reason to stress retired military families this way. Keep them on fee for service and let TriCare continue to cover whatever Advantage does not cover, and Medicaid will never be charged. Thank you.

Lynn Greenblatt

Caregiving Cafe Support Group for Family Caregivers - Family Caregivers

Austin, TX

Good day, Representative Rose. I commend you for taking on the task of creating a statewide interagency to connect resources for seniors. As a Family Caregiver for 15 years myself [aged 64, caring for my disabled, homebound husband, 63] and on behalf of the many Family Caregivers who have attended Caregiving Cafe Support Groups, I welcome the structure that a well-coordinated, easy-to-use / simple, "No wrong door" system would bring to our population. Right along Seniors are thousands of Family Caregivers. While most Seniors are in good health, they are often caring for someone - of any age - or may unexpectedly be taking care of a Loved One, or they may need care themselves. To help Seniors - and those who look after Seniors - find access to information and guidance, a unified, cohesive and expansive hub of resources would make life so much easier for everyone. I hear much too often from Family Caregivers, who are mostly around 60 yrs. of age or older, that they do not know where to go for advice or information. Caregiving Cafe provides that by connecting Family Caregivers to resources, education, information & camaraderie. One phone number, one website, one agency that connected the caller to the right organization(s) and resources would be a Godsend! Caregiving Cafe is working daily on this effort, but I cannot do this alone. I have had many reputable resources, government agencies, non-profits, businesses and professionals join me in this effort. A statewide agency to help coordinate the path to effective resolutions would not come a moment too soon! Thank you! Lynn Greenblatt @ CaregivingCafe.com

Linda Litzinger

Texas Parent to Parent - Public Policy Specialist

Austin, TX

Texas Parent to Parent supports this bill to add an inter-agency council to support adults who are aging. This would support our aging family members who have disability. Thank you.