

Dear Senator Underwood,

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman advocates for the rights of residents in long-term care – assisted living, residential care, nursing home, and adult foster care. The Ombudsman provides a free service that will advocate solely for residents, protecting their rights and dignity. Some may be simple to resolve, such as cold coffee or access to a private phone, but also serious issues such as guardianship, lack of quality care, and safety concerns.

This program cannot function effectively without the help of Certified Ombudsman – volunteers who are vetted and undergo extensive training to act on behalf of the State Ombudsman's office.

In your area, we are in need of more volunteers. In Coos and Curry County, there are only two volunteers to work with one staff member for over 1800 residents in long-term care.

If it is possible to include the attached information in your next newsletter or constituent communication, it would be greatly appreciated. I'll be attending the Coos Bay Farmer's Market on September 14 and 21 to answer questions and hand out information in person! Training for new volunteers will be in October of this year, in Coos Bay (as long as we have at least three applicants).

I am more than happy to send you more information upon your request, or answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

ATTACHMENT:

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman has openings for five volunteers in Coos and Curry Counties. Certified Ombudsman Volunteers spend 16-20 hours a month advocating for residents in long-term care facilities. If you like to problem solve, work with people, and like to be involved, this program might be a great fit for you.

Certified Ombudsman attend training and then are assigned facilities to visit and advocate, educate, and investigate on behalf of the residents, for the residents. Volunteers work with State staff to help protect their rights and dignity.

Training for new volunteers is in October in Coos Bay. Those interested in applying should be at least 21 years of age, pass a background check, and

have not worked for a long-term care facility within the past two years.

A representative of the Ombudsman program will be at the Coos Bay Farmer's Market on September 14 and 21 to answer questions and hand out information.

For more information, call Gretchen Jordan, Coordinator of Volunteers at 1-800-522-2602 or email at gretchen.jordan@state.or.us. For more information about the Long Term Care Ombudsman program, visit our website at www.state.or.us/LTCO