

**RICHARD DEVLIN**

**State Senator**

DISTRICT 19  
CLACKAMAS, MULTNOMAH  
& WASHINGTON COUNTIES



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**900 COURT ST NE  
SALEM, OR 97301**

Claude A. Goodman  
CareWheels Corporation  
2996 Dellwood Drive  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

December 20, 2010

Dear Claude,

As I prepare to serve as the Oregon Senate's co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee in the most difficult circumstances our state has ever faced, I am most interested to learn about innovative programs being proposed by my constituents. When we met on November 30, you proposed an innovative program to help fill some gaps in home and community based social services caused by the state budget deficit.

Oregon has led the nation in improving the quality of care and life for our disabled and elderly populations. During periods of economic turmoil, the demand for social services increases while state funding declines. Budget shortfalls and the end of the enhanced federal Medicaid match will mean severe cutbacks for our In-Home Care Program, which serves 10,500 clients who may lose assistance with instrumental activities of daily living. Proposed elimination of programs that do not receive federal matching funds like Oregon Project Independence, a cost effective strategy to delay individuals from unnecessarily leaving their homes, may relegate 2,000 clients to more expensive facility-based care. Short-term frugality may incur long-term costs if the present needs of our most vulnerable Oregonians are deferred until they require much more expensive care.

I support greater public-private collaboration that responds to reductions in social services and high unemployment with solutions that help create social care networks. The CareWheels LOVE (Lake Oswego Value Exchange) project proposes to empower seniors and caregivers with the tools needed to age safely in home and community based settings by leveraging technologies that are being developed locally by academic, industrial and public benefit organizations including OHSU, Intel and CareWheels.

Lake Oswego could lead our state and the nation in deploying in-home health care monitoring technologies, by remunerating people who provide the monitoring and response services through a time bank. This will help to build social capital by fostering a local marketplace to exchange community-based senior services, by providing better care with limited financial resources.

Sincerely,

Richard Devlin,