Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Mary Jaeger, Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Mary Jaeger is currently serving her second term as Oregon's LTC Ombudsman, having been appointed in 2009 by Governor Kulongoski and re-appointed in 2013 by Governor Kitzhaber. The Oregon Office of the LTC Ombudsman is an independent agency advocating for the 43,000 residents of licensed LTC facilities. The agency has a small paid staff of 12 people and works with over 200 volunteer ombudsmen across the state. Over 80% of the reported issues are resolved by volunteers.

Mary is a Portland native and a first-generation American of German heritage. She is the fourth of five children born to immigrant parents who came to the US in the 1950's. Mary was raised around a host of spunky elderly aunts and uncles who first ignited her interest in the elderly and long term care issues. When Mary was ten years old, her Mother suffered a debilitating stroke creating the need for around-the-clock care by the extended family members for 12 years. She spent a short time in a nursing home before her death, which further inspired Mary to focus her career goals on long term care, caregiving and aging policy.

Mary Jaeger is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon and holds Masters Degrees in Gerontology and Public Administration from the University of Southern California. A pianist by training, Mary partially funded her college and graduate education through piano and academic scholarships. While attending school in Los Angeles, Mary lived for free in a Board and Care facility in exchange for serving as the receptionist and occasional driver for the residents. Throughout her career she has served on numerous non-profit boards and commissions focused on the elderly and on children's causes.

Highlights of Mary's professional background include 15 years of non-profit long term care management at the local and national levels for the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Francis, followed by two years in geriatric institutional pharmacy. Prior to her appointment as Ombudsman, Mary spent 10 years in child welfare as the Director and Chief Fundraiser for CASA for Children in Portland, where she also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer. Mary Jaeger has been honored with special awards in recognition of her community service and passion for social justice by St. Mary's Academy, City of Beaverton, Willamette University and most recently by CASA for Children.

In her spare time she and her husband enjoy traveling, searching for American pottery and dishes from the 1930's and remodeling their 1920's bungalow in NE Portland.