

Chair Greenlick and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the owners and administrative team of Trilogy Home Care, licensed since November 2007.

We would like to share our support for HB 3145, requiring the new Home Care Worker Registry to abide by the same rules and regulations that private In-Home Care Agencies are bound to follow.

As an owner, I have spent the last eight years devoting myself to the development of our small business, creating hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in taxable revenue for Oregon in the process. Our company strives for excellence in all our business practices, adhering not only to the letter of our law, but the heart behind it as well.

It is insult enough that the our state has chosen to put in place an entity that directly competes with the private business we have worked so hard to build, but to suggest that this entity is entitled to skirt those purposeful standards that we are held to is unfair, unethical, and wholly unconscionable.

Oregon state implemented the OARs to put checks in place that help protect the vulnerable population we serve. While adherence to this myriad regulations and rules is hugely costly, we embrace the high standard our OARs set forth for in-home care agencies in Oregon. Quality assurance in a field as sensitive and personal as ours is necessary for the safety and well-being of both the people we serve and those providing these essential services. The need for checks, balances, and accountability is an absolute. Caregiver training, skills evaluations, creating service plans, monitoring of services, RN coordination of medications and treatments, reviewing documentation and care notes are essential components of our service. They are not optional.

As we stand at this crossroads, I hope that our State has the foresight to stand behind the standards that IT put in place for agencies like ourselves and holds itself to the same standard. I pray that our State stands up for small businesses like ours that have worked so hard to create a bright future for our senior clients and our employees. I hope that our State understands the value that private in-home care agencies offer by taking on the burden of being an Employer for our workforce (insurance, oversight, contributions, scheduling, etc.)...

Being an employer and an administrator of an in-home care agency becomes more complicated every year, yet we carry on in the face of these challenges. Please do not undercut our efforts to raise the bar for in-home care in Oregon. We should be able to count on a fair and equitable playing field from the State that we do so much to support. We are Oregon business and we are doing great work for our communities. Do the right thing for our seniors and for our businesses.

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