

5:00 PM – 900 Court St. Salem

Hearing Room F

Committee Chair; Halvey; committee members; I am Michael Gardner, owner of History Makers Inc. an In Home Care Agency, licensed in the state of Oregon, located at 220 Cinbar Dr. in Roseburg.

History Makers is classified sometimes as a small business or sometimes big business, depending on who is making the determination.

In front of you is a letter that explains my interpretation of HB-2009's impact on my business and many other small businesses in the state. It is true, that some retail businesses may be able to pass labor increases of this magnitude on the consumer with little impact, but my In Home Care Agency cannot.

Agencies were set up by DHS with a multitude of regulations and mandates to protect our seniors and disabled citizens. The majority of History Makers clients care, is paid for with DHS funding.

In order to comply with DHS regulations and mandates, extensive facilities and staff are a required expense, with minimal compensation included for these overheads. Also, Agency regulations apply to clients referred by the Veterans Administration, Long Term Insurance companies and private pay clients.

As far as I know, there is no plan to increase the rate being paid by the VA or DHS, which needs to be even more of an increase than the minimum wage. All insurance rates are based on pay roll, so that would be an additional increase to the Agencies.

At this time, I employ a total of 46 full time and 34 part time people. My wife is a full time nurse and I operate History Makers Inc. with a very tight margin, we in no way, live a life like the rich and famous.

If this bill is implemented, History Makers Inc. will be forced to close it's doors, 80 people will be unemployed and 90 clients will be without the care they need so desperately.

Please find another way to assist people to a better life; that needs to be earned, not given.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you this evening; and also for your attention to this important matter. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully;

Michael Gardner

Addition : Please refer to the upcoming bill HB-3145 pertaining to registry caregivers vs. agencies.