

Dear Chair Dembrow and Chair Holvey and committee members,

My name is Rebecca Sandoval, and I am a 24/7 Homecare worker from Medford. I am proud to be a Homecare worker. I believe there is great dignity in working to keep our Senior and Differently abled fellow Oregonians in their own homes. My profession gives them the freedom and dignity to chose to live in their own homes, and saves the State and Federal Taxpayers a great deal of money. I would like to urge you to support SB610 and HB2009 because even though hourly Homecare workers make close to a living wage--13.75 an hour, we live-in providers generally make less than minimum wage. We are currently exempt from federal labor laws because we are classified as "Domestic workers", but this looks to change in the near future when the Fair Labor Standard Act, currently held up in a DC federal court, is implemented. At that point, even live-in HCWs will earn at least minimum wage. I currently earn \$8.32 per hour, and am only paid for 10.1 hours a day--even though I am required to work 24 hours a day. The 8.32 is a blended rate based on how much hands on direct care my consumer requires and how likely I am to be able to get 5 hours of uninterrupted sleep, while meeting the nighttime needs of my consumer. While my wages cover my basic necessities, there is nothing left over for savings, or to be able to afford to get my teeth fixed because the work that I need costs way more than my dental insurance covers--and I don't have the hundreds of dollars that I would have to pay. And I worry constantly that something major will go wrong with my car, and I won't have the money to get it repaired. And worst of all, I don't have the money to help out my daughter and her husband as they struggle to cover their living expenses, and the high cost of raising an incredibly engaged high school student and athlete. I would dearly love to be able to contribute to my grandson's college fund, but I just don't have the money. If theses bills pass, not only will all Homecare and Personal support hourly workers make a living wage, but live-in providers will make one too. I urge you to do more than support these bill; I beg you to fight along with us to make sure that any Oregonian willing and able to work full time hours earns enough to support themselves and their families without depending on public assistance of any kind.

Thank you for your kind attention

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sandoval
Medford, Oregon
Homecare worker