



February 15, 2017

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the committee. My name is Kyndall Mason, I am the political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on long term care. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 53, requesting an increase in fees for in home care agencies and hospice providers.

Specifically, SEIU supports the increase on fees for in home care agencies, because caring for some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations shouldn't be a business that anyone takes lightly. Individuals wishing to own and operate an in home care agency, should be prepared and able to run a business that provides quality care and continuity of services. This service isn't just a crucial pillar in the values of Oregon's long term care, which are choice, independence, and dignity, it employs thousands of home care workers throughout the state.

There has been steady growth in the industry itself, and the need for home care is expected to grow exponentially in Oregon. There is little overhead, often having a decentralized staff. It would be prudent for the state to make sure that the bar of entry, and cost of maintaining such licensure, isn't so low that it encourages people to take advantage of the system trying to get a piece of the fastest growing pie in the country.

I'd like to end by adding that we are facing a budget crisis for the coming biennium, and considering an increase in fees for agencies who profit from the care of others, many of whom receive Medicaid dollars, is smart policy.

Thank you for your time today, and for considering this piece of legislation.

Kyndall Mason
Political & Policy Strategist
SEIU Local 503

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org