



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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To: Senate Committee on Workforce

Attn: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee

RE: SB 1534



The Oregon Department of Human Services supports SB 1534.

With over 30,000 home care workers and personal support workers serving more than 25,000 vulnerable Oregonians each month, it is critical that we address professionalization of this critical workforce. This bill requires DHS and the Home Care Commission to develop training standards for this workforce.

Home care workers and personal support workers provide critical supports for our aging population and for those who experience physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities. Developing a highly trained, culturally competent, and person-centered workforce requires an investment in training opportunities that will enhance the safety, stability, and quality of life for those served in these programs.

Over the next decade, aging Oregonians will continue to grow. Oregon has historically been a national leader in long term care because of our commitment to safety, independence, and choice. Without home care workers, our commitment to provide opportunities for individuals to age in place would be impossible.

Similarly, without personal support workers in the I/DD system, Oregon's commitment to self-determination and independence would be incredibly difficult to uphold. Workers provide individuals with I/DD access to supports that are critical to health, safety, and quality of life.

Home care workers and personal support workers provide critical services and supports to our loved ones and community members. With the passage of this bill, we will be taking a step forward to investing in higher standards of care for some of Oregon's most vulnerable individuals.

The Department appreciates the collaborative work with our partners at SEIU on this bill. We look forward to strengthening this workforce together, which is an essential responsibility to the thousands of Oregonians we serve.

Sincerely,

Angie Allbee, Legislative Liaison
Oregon Department of Human Services

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

