



Taking action for basic human needs.



February 5, 2018

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Workforce Committee,

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition (HSCO), we respectfully request your support for SB 1534.

For over three decades, HSCO has convened like-minded advocates in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO is made up of over 120 individuals and organizations that work together to develop effective tax, education, health care, housing, human services and economic development policy that together make Oregon a better place for all its citizens.

We believe in culturally competent services that promote choice, dignity and empowerment. For thousands of Oregonians experiencing disabilities, personal support workers and home care workers are a critical piece of their lives that allow them to live the life they choose in our communities with dignity and respect.

These supports are a major reason why many Oregonians are able to stay in their homes focusing on independence rather than moving to more expensive settings in nursing homes, group homes or foster homes. Workers employed by people with developmental disabilities also support self-determination and their employer's right to direct their services.

These workers have huge responsibilities to our fellow community members. Their jobs require diverse knowledge and skill sets, which demand proper training. HSCO believes that our communities are well served to have this important workforce trained to meet the needs of Oregonians with disabilities. SB 1534 takes us in the right direction.

We support SB 1534 as it aligns with HSCO's guiding principles, and we thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thank you,  
Jeremiah Rigsby, Co-Chair  
Leslie Sutton, Co-Chair

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