



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
For more information contact Cheryl Ramirez at 503-399-7201

Testimony in support of SB 1534

Providing training for Personal Support Workers

February 6, 2018

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

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our support for SB 1534, which would require DHS to establish and provide training for Personal Support Workers.

AOCMHP's membership includes 32 CDDPs across Oregon, operated through Community Mental Health Programs, by not-for-profit entities that contract with local government or that contract directly with the DHS/ODDS. CDDPs help assure the protection and safety of over 25,766 Oregonians with I/DD in collaboration with families and providers and provide case management services to over 17,000 children and adults eligible for services.

The children and adults with Intellectual and developmental disabilities that we support are dependent on Personal Support Workers to provide the critical supports and services to help individuals lead good lives in their communities, an important value to every Oregonian.

Personal Support Workers provide many services, yet often receive the least amount of training for the important work they provide. There is a growing need for a well-trained workforce that is professional, knowledgeable and skilled.

We urge you to support SB 1534, helping to keep people with I/DD healthy, safe and well supported in our communities.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Ramirez

Cheryl L. Ramirez
Director, AOCMHP