

Vote YES on SB 1534A

Workforce Training for Home Care and Personal Support Workers.

SB 1534A would require that DHS and the Oregon Home Care Commission work together to determine minimum training standards for home care and personal support workers through the Oregon Home Care Commission.

Advocates of SB 1534 include a wide variety of stakeholders in aging and people with disabilities as well as stakeholders in the intellectual and developmental disabilities communities. People who receive services, workers and advocates alike understand the importance of a well trained workforce because it means that consumers will have access to safe and qualified workers, while care providers will be given the tools and resources to do their jobs safely and effectively.

2017 saw the publication of two reports; one by an independent workforce strategy development consultant Thomas P. Miller, and the other a Secretary of State audit. Both point the fact that the workforce is in crisis, and that access to quality training is imperative to building a sustainable workforce ready to deal with the increasing demands for supports and services. Oregon has been a pioneer in long term care, but we are at risk of falling behind if home care and personal support workers can't provide safe quality supports to people who receive services.

There needs to be better access to more trainings in order to improve the safety and care provided to Medicaid eligible consumers. The organizations listed below have worked collaboratively with DHS and the commission to ensure that training standards are implemented in a thoughtful and cost effective manner.

People who rely on the supports and services of home care and personal support workers deserve to have reliable access to a well trained and qualified workforce so that people can live with independence, dignity and choice, which are the three pillars of long term care in Oregon. If we are to remain pioneers in the long term care it is imperative that we prioritize this workforce of predominantly women who care for our most vulnerable Oregonians.

Please vote yes on SB 1534A



From the Office of
State Representative
Bill Kennemer