

Dear Senators Gelser, Heard and Monnes Anderson,

My wife and I have owned a Licensed In Home Care Agency on the Oregon Coast since 2003. This bill would have a disastrous effect on rural areas.

We would have to pay our new hires to drive to Oregon Care Commission classes in Salem, 2 hours each way, for training, in addition to the class time and mileage OR wait for a class to be held here on the Coast. Home Care Commission classes are offered on the Coast about once a month now. Most clients call us in crisis. A delay in hiring would result in elders not getting the help they need in a timely manner and potential caregivers might not wait for these classes but instead look for employment outside of caregiving.

At this time the DHS guidelines specify in detail exactly what licensed agencies must teach at the time of employment. This is verified by the DHS Surveyors during their meticulous surveys. Of note the SEIU care providers have NO requirements for education at this time. We should hold off on this legislation until the SEIU education is written and has had a trial run to see if it works out and what the cost to the state will be. Initially this education could be trialed by the SEIU workers only rather than added to private agencies which already has this in place.

This bill seems muddled and rushed with so many issues completely unrelated to continuing education in the bill. I would urge you to keep only the education component for the SEIU care providers and allow BOLI to review the Labor issues and the DHS Surveyor's to investigate the other issues as they have been charged to do by the legislature.

Thank you,

Don Taylor  
541-961-2988