

February 1, 2022

To Chair Sara Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Art Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

As a member of AAUW and a former nurse educator here in Oregon, I ask that you seriously consider and endorse passage of SB 1556. As has so clearly been brought to light with the inability to transition Covid-19 patients from hospitals, transparency in certification requirements is important to the recipients of care at any stage in the health care continuum. SB 1556 adds this level of transparency to Oregonians employing homecare workers and personal attendants. Transparency is a minimum safety requirement for all certification and licensure in the state and so this is overdue at best.

Passage of SB 1556 has added benefits for the workers as well. By allowing them to access their own records they will have the information to continue to build their own resumes and foster career development. Perhaps, the additional transparency will also positively influence better compensation for these challenging but underpaid healthcare workers. If we wish to actually facilitate healthy aging, forestall elder abuse, and provide reasonable care to all disabled Oregonians, homecare workers and personal attendants are an important part of the solution.

Thank you for your support of this important bill.

Barbara Gaines
Portland