

January 31, 2022

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

I write in support of Senate bill 1556 and as a member of the American Association of University Women of Oregon.

Since March 2020 there has been a huge increase in the demand for workers and personal attendants by consumers and families seeking homecare or services.

Due to the pandemic, some employed in this category have quit their jobs either from the extreme challenge of working under Covid mandates or finding that the rate of pay was not worth the stress.

A public certification process will lead to better and more consistent compensation for homecare workers. Those looking for assistance will be able to confirm that their caregiver has met certain requirements via access to a registry.

In addition, developing a path to building a career via certification for homecare workers could well lead to an increase in professional development in other much needed advanced nursing categories.

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