

February 1, 2022

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

As a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) or Oregon, I respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 1556.

There are certain times in our lives when we are most vulnerable. One of those is the day that someone whom we love requires home health care. Above all, we want to be able to ensure that the person whom we hire to care for perhaps a parent, a partner, a sibling, or a child is fully qualified and of good character. The easiest and most reassuring way for that to happen is for the Department of Human Services to maintain a registry online of all certification information, including background checks and training, and to make this available to the public.

The home health care workers benefit by being able to access their own records, to update them, and to be able to give them as reference for advancement and professional development. A registry could also serve as an opportunity for workers to demand just compensation for their labor.

Demand for home health care workers is increasing. I ask that the legislature help those workers and those who require their services by supporting Senate Bill 1556.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary Pat Silveira
West Linn, Oregon