

February 1, 2022

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

I am writing to you to voice my support for Senate Bill 1556 concerning the creation of a certification process administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services for homecare workers and personal attendants. With DHS administering the process, certification information will be available to the public. Families seeking care and services for a loved one will be able access a registry and confirm that a potential care giver has met all requirements. This could be a huge help for individuals and families dealing with one of the most important decisions in their life – safe, dependable, caring support for someone they love.

In my father's last years, he was unable to take care of himself and my mother had just passed away. The last thing he or the family wanted was for him to be moved into an assisted living facility. Finding an individual to live-in and care for my father was an overwhelming and frightening task – how to begin, where to begin? My siblings were able to hire a man who was patient, very caring and qualified, but it wasn't easy. Having a registry as a place to start would have been helpful and confidence building.

Additionally, a certification registry that the public can access can lead to more consistent and better compensation for caregivers and could encourage them to invest in their development and skill building.

Please support this legislation as the need for home care is a growing need.

Susan Deeming  
Durham, OR