

February 2, 2022

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

### **Support for SB 1556**

My name is Claire Berger. I live in Forest Grove, Oregon and am a life-long resident of the city. I am a member of the Hillsboro-Forest Grove Branch of the American Association of University Women. This letter is in support of Senate Bill 1556 which creates and phases in a certification process administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services for homecare workers and personal attendants.

Although employers are currently responsible for initiating and maintaining workers' certifications which include satisfactory completion of a background check and verification of completed training requirements, DHS will now be authorized to make this certification information available to the public. The advantage to this bill is that consumers and families seeking care or services will be able to access a registry and confirm that their caregiver has met all requirements and public certification can lead to better and more consistent compensation for these challenging jobs. Another advantage is that better wages for homecare workers mean better care for consumers and their families and a larger pool of qualified workers. and demand for these services is on the rise.

As a retired elderly Oregonian potentially needing these types of services in the future, it is a high priority for my future well-being and care. I would like to stay living in my home for as long as possible and access to high quality homecare workers will be key to maintaining my independence on the long term.

Thank you for your consideration!

Claire Berger

Forest Grove, Oregon