



*Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing*

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Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

*Re: Senate Bill (SB) 1556; -5 Amendment*

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) represents long term care providers across the state, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living and residential care communities and licensed in-home care agencies. OHCA's mission is to improve lives of seniors and people with disabilities by promoting quality, affordable care.

OHCA supports establishing pathways for career development in long term care, which includes exploring how unlicensed and uncertified direct caregivers can advance through their educational training in a more seamless manner. Accomplishing this goal requires collaboration and more conversation to ensure Oregon's system is flexible, equitable, and can reasonably be implemented. Oregon's assisted living communities and in-home care agencies are licensed and regulated by state law. Direct caregivers in these settings are typically not licensed Registered Nurses or Certified Nursing Assistants such as in a nursing facility. Instead, direct caregivers under this social model of care are required to meet specific pre-service, in-service training, and annual continuing training requirements.

OHCA had significant concerns with SB 1556 as introduced. We were able to work with the measure's proponents on the -5 amendment, which are under consideration today. We appreciate the opportunity to work on additional policy changes. With this amendment, we believe the revised bill mitigates some of the most pressing problems related to protecting a caregiver's personal information and privacy, administrative and financial impact on providers, as well as clarity around intent and rulemaking authority. OHCA is neutral on this measure with adoption of the -5 amendment.

We continue to have concerns regarding how this measure will be implemented to ensure alignment across varied regulatory structures and training standards in care settings. This work will have to take place in rulemaking, and we are hopeful that these hurdles can be managed effectively through that process. We remain committed to ensuring direct care staff in long term care settings receive the best training possible to support quality resident care and services.

Sincerely,

Libby Batlan  
Senior Vice President of Government Relations  
Oregon Health Care Association