

Senate Committee on Rules  
Testimony in Support of SB 1556  
February 22, 2022

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Senators Girod,  
Manning, and Taylor,

My name is Krista Parent and I am Vice-Chair of the  
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW).

1. OCFW works toward economic, social, political, and  
legal equity for the women of Oregon with particular focus  
on marginalized and underrepresented women of color. We  
do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership  
development, and partnerships.

2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy  
making, OCFW strongly supports SB 1556.

On behalf of the Oregon Commission for Women, we would like to fully endorse and  
provide our support for SB 1556.

The majority of homecare workers are women or people of color and our Commission is  
focused on pay equity and elevating women in the workplace and this bill does just that.  
Having a structure in place to demonstrate professionalism, training, and details of the  
work setting will help in eliminating the many disparities that exist in this profession.

**Oregon Commission for Women**

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Natasha Haunsperger

**Vice-Chair:**

Dr. Krista Parent

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Recruitment and retention of homecare workers is essential, and there are current shortages that are overwhelming and workers are leaving the profession in high numbers.

Having a certification and endorsement process will help provide a pathway for homecare workers to advance and stay in the system, while building a stronger pipeline for those aspiring to this area of work. SB 1556 not only helps in the workforce shortage but also provides a level of accountability that brings a professional element to the work.

Finally, for those families seeking homecare services, SB 1556 will ensure that the information needed to make the best selection will be provided.

We urge your support for SB 1556.

Sincerely,

Dr. Krista Parent, Vice – Chair  
The Oregon Commission for Women

