



Service Employees International Union Local 503

72,000 public services workers, care providers, and non-profit employees in Oregon.

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

RE: House Bill 2495

January 25th, 2023

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Alice Longley Miller and I am here representing SEIU 503 and our Adult Foster Home provider membership. I would like to express support for HB 2495, which would temporarily raise rates for Adult Foster Homes in Oregon while the state updates the AFH rate-setting process.

Oregon's Adult Foster Homes are single-family residences that offer 24-hour care in a home-like setting. AFH supports residents by helping with activities of daily living. Each home is licensed and overseen by the state of Oregon. AFH is a unique and proven model to deliver community care, but the current rate methodology is outdated and results in insufficient base payments to provide services, as evidenced by high utilization of enhanced or exceptional rates. Oregon must establish a base rate that is in line with the true cost of providing care and sensible acuity-based rate adjustments based on resident needs.

As you have heard from others today, AFH is a critical part of our long-term care and disability system. Updating the rate methodology for AFH would increase the capacity of Oregon's AFH system and our home and community based service capacity overall. This is especially important as our population ages and the demand for services goes up.

SEIU is supporting HB 2495, but would like to ask that the scope expand to include all AFH providers, not just the ODHS AFH providers identified in the bill as written. The rate overhaul should include homes licensed by ODHS as well as OHA behavioral health since some AFH sites are dual endorsed. We have AFH member organizations who serve residents from behavioral health, ODDS, and APD under the same roof and a standard rate methodology across programs is the best way to approach overhauling these rates.

HB 2495 acknowledges that current rates are inadequate to provide high quality services by providing immediate relief to AFH providers while the state begins work on a much-needed rate overhaul. I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today,

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