



Greetings,

Thank you in advance for hearing my testimony in response to SB 1521. HDE Home Care has contracted with ODHS to provide additional staff to support children in Temporary Lodging. In a program that is under-staffed and in need of additional qualified providers, HDE stepped in to aid in the support of children who had a lack of regular supervision and care. SB 1521 appears to have the safety of children at its heart, but in the spirit of quickly changing regulations in response to an improperly run organization or two, the bill misses the mark by potentially cutting providers out of the program. HDE can conform to additional training, oversight, reporting and other administrative requirements. This has been done successfully here in a number of ODHS divisions like OHA, ODDS, and VR. And, we stand behind regulation that increases the safety of children and people with disabilities across all programs in the state of Oregon. Unfortunately, the bill lumps HDE and other organizations whose role is to provide qualified staff in with other organizations whose role is to provide housing, guardianship, and other essential services to children. Our organizations are wildly different and while we should provide the same type of qualified employees, we should not be required to completely alter our company, including organizational structure. I fail to see how that impacts the safety of children.

Thanks again for listening.

Donny Bradetich

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