

Submitter: Diana Evens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4129

Support for HB 4129 Diana Evens, Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Hello, I'm Diana Evens. I am from Cottage Grove and I have been in this line of work for over 30 years. I write in support of the Homecare Modernization Act HB 4129. Every day, I attend to all aspects of everyday living for my loved one: I prepare meals, bathing which consists of full assist, meal clean up, laundry, etc. since he is not capable of doing for himself. I also take him to his doctor's appointments, run errands since he is not able to drive, and also distribute medications.

I was introduced to this line of work back in November, 1999. A dear friend needed a care provider to help her stay in her home. She is the reason I am doing this work still today. She knew that I would be best suited to give the best quality of care. With her help, I was able to get my family member services which I did not know about at the time. It's programs like the homecare program that the public should know about – and how we help all those Oregonians who suffer from some type of illness or have a disability can get the support they need to live safely in the comfort of their own homes.

I've been doing this work a long time. Because of my experience with individuals with diabetes, I was able to get one of my consumer's blood sugars under control, and she went from being diabetic to no longer diabetic, to the amazement of her doctor. Seeing her health improve because I helped her was a great and rewarding outcome. Another client I worked for faced a close of a homecare agency and had no idea how to go about finding a new caregiver. If there was an agency option like the one described in HB 4129, she would have had more support and not experience a lapse in care.

The challenges I am having with the current state of the system is that when we take time off to care for our own health, there are no back up care workers to be able to attend to our clients needs and that our clients feel safe with or can trust since. If you sign up with a traditional agency, clients don't know who these back up care workers are that the agency sends. They would prefer if they could have back up workers that they know and selected. This bill will support the work we do and allow more Oregonians to stay in their homes for longer. It will also benefit the state financially compared to paying for people to live in more expensive facilities. Will you join me in supporting HB 4129?