

Submitter: Laurie Stuebing

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4129

Testimony concerning HB 4129: Homecare Modernization Act

Dear honorable committee members,

Almost thirty years ago, our family's journey took an unexpected turn when our son was diagnosed with autism. As a former executive, the transition to becoming a common law employer overseeing our son's care was both necessary and deeply personal. Every day, our family relies on the steadfast dedication of Personal Support Workers (PSWs) to provide near-constant care for our son, who necessitates highly skilled staff due to his profound autism. For individuals like our son, the ability to recruit, train, and supervise Personal Support Workers (PSWs) is paramount and the closest option Oregon has to a self-directed model.

The implementation of the Community First Choice Option under the Affordable Care Act brought so much hope and relief to our lives. For the first time, our son's needs were acknowledged, and he received the support hours necessary to allow him to thrive in his home and community. The K-plan has been a lifeline for us, offering invaluable flexibility and empowering consumer choice. The Community First Choice Option stands as the culmination of years of tireless advocacy within the disability rights community.

Beyond payment processing, systemic issues such as delays in background checks and onboarding underscore the need for change. While I am eager to discuss additional concerns and potential remedies with the committee, I firmly believe that HB 4129 is not the answer. Creating additional bureaucracy through this bill risks undermining the rights of individuals with disabilities and impeding the progress of the disability rights movement in Oregon.

As a dedicated mother passionately advocating for our son's rights and the rights of all individuals with disabilities, I urge us to unite in the effort to find solutions and streamline our current system. Let's prioritize progress over bureaucracy and ensure that taxpayer funds are wisely invested. HB 4129 threatens to undermine the hard-fought rights of individuals like our son, rights that have been decades in the making.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Warm regards,

Laurie Stuebing
Common Law Employer and Mother