

February 14, 2024 Senate Committee on Human Services

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the committee, SEIU Local 503 is neutral on the proposed expansion of capacity in Adult Foster Homes.

We are neutral on the proposal and wholeheartedly agree with the bill proponents and advocates that Adult Foster Homes are not getting adequate reimbursement from the state to provide the services and that are generally left behind by the state in many instances.

We supported a bill last session, HB 2495 (2022), that would have updated the rate methodology and increased the rates for Adult Foster Homes, which we think is necessary to stabilize struggling providers. We hope the legislature will continue to explore options for how to better pay and support AFH providers for the critical services they provide to older adults and people with disabilities. This care model has many benefits, including the homelike environment and cost effectiveness for the state. Oregon must do more to support these providers.

We look forward to working with the Department of Human Services, AFH providers, and Legislators to support and stabilize this critical part of our Long term Care Service system in the future.

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Thank you, Alice Longley Miller, MSW, MPH SEIU Local 503

