

Monday, March 31, 2025

Good morning Chair, Co-chair and members of the committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar with Oregon AFSCME. Our union represents over 39,000 workers across the state in both public and private sectors and we believe in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families. I am writing today in support of House Bill 2061 which is a step in the right direction to address the recruitment and retention of case managers. Our organization represents case managers at Multnomah County and at North West Senior & Disability Services.

Oregon AFSCME believes that we must recenter ourselves and focus on the recruitment and retention of qualified case managers and adult protective services (APS) workers to meet the increasing demand for services in Oregon. For years, we've heard our members struggle with keeping up with the evergrowing caseload and unsustainable working conditions. We've had members leave their current positions due to the high levels of stress and burnout from high caseloads.

Oregonians across the state depend on case managers to support them navigate a system when they might not have any other family relative to count on. As the aging population grows and the eligibility systems continue to modernize, they are left to navigate these complicated systems to access the care and support they need. We firmly believe that high case loads lead to a reduction in customer service which can cause real harm to individuals across the state who are in high need.

HB 2061 is a step in the right direction and we look forward to continuing to engage in conversations with stakeholders to address this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration and time. We urge your AYE vote.