

Submitter: Chanda Farrar  
On Behalf Of: SB 27 SB 283  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of continued investment in healthcare benefits for essential workers in Oregon's long-term care sector through SB 27 and SB 283. As an Administrator at Hood River Post Acute I understand that access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is a key factor in attracting and retaining a stable workforce. The Essential Worker Healthcare Trust (EWHT) has played a vital role in ensuring caregivers have comprehensive, cost-effective healthcare benefits, which support the recruitment and retention of the dedicated professionals who care for some of Oregon's most vulnerable residents.

Continued funding for programs like EWHT is essential to maintaining a strong and sustainable long-term care workforce. The Essential Worker Healthcare Trust has been monumental in recruiting employees for long term care at my facility. It is so nice to be able to offer employees a healthcare insurance plan that is affordable and great coverage! The trust has made a big impact on staffing for us in a rural location, whose biggest healthcare competitor is Providence.

Ongoing investment in the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust is an investment in Oregon's long-term care workforce, ensuring that we can continue to provide quality care to those who need it most. Since 2021, the EWHT has provided nearly 6,000 people like me with health coverage for ourselves and our families, please fund EWHT.

Sincerely,

Chanda Farrar  
Administrator  
Hood River Post Acute