

Submitter: Erik Horeis
On Behalf Of: SEIU Local 503
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Diane Deane, and I have been a homecare worker for 11 years where I live in Madras.

I am testifying today to ask you to protect & invest in Oregon's aging and disabled citizens.

The baby boomer generation is aging and experiencing gray hair.

What we do is an essential service.

Without us, homecare workers, those citizens would end up in a care facility rather than in their own homes.

I do not know anyone who wants to end up in a corporate facility. We all want to be in our own homes for as long as possible.

With the cost of living continuing to rise, my wages are simply not keeping up. Rent is sky-high.

I am one paycheck from eviction. We demand a LIVING wage.

My job, my healthcare, and my client's healthcare depend on a budget that gets us care providers to \$25 an hour before the end of 2026.

We cannot afford to wait if the federal government cuts Medicaid spending.

Let us act now & adequately invest in our state's in-home care program.

I urge you to support us in adopting a new budget for this program that will increase the pay for home-based care providers like me to \$25 an hour by the end of 2026.

Thank you for your time.