

Submitter: Crystal Well

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

I am writing in opposition to SB 1505 and the proposed -1 amendment, which would establish a workforce standards board, and I respectfully urge you not to advance the bill.

Even if long-term care providers are excluded, SB 1505 establishes a concerning precedent. Once the Legislature approves the creation of a workforce standards board for one sector, it becomes easier to expand the authority of that board or create additional boards in the future. This approach is not conducive to businesses and organizations that are already struggling to meet growing demand while operating in an increasingly complex regulatory environment with constrained funding.

Workforce standards boards drive higher operating costs which further limit access to care for seniors and people with disabilities.

Proponents suggest workforce standards boards bring stakeholders together, yet there is no clear example of a healthcare workforce standards board that has successfully achieved that goal. In practice, these boards often create additional cost, confusion and division rather than collaboration. At a time when the Legislature is facing difficult budget decisions and considering reductions across state programs, dedicating resources to establish a new board is difficult to justify.

The Legislature already has the authority to address workforce policy and could instead make direct investments in the programs this board is intended to support. If the goal is collaboration, an advisory structure would achieve that purpose without creating a new regulatory body, while ensuring final decisions remain with elected legislators, where accountability belongs. This bill weakens transparency and accountability.

Oregonians deserve access to Oregon's established legislative due-process system. They deserve to understand how decisions are made and how to contact their elected representatives when concerns arise. This bill shifts workforce decisions away from Oregon's existing legislative and governmental processes, which are transparent, constitutionally grounded, and widely understood, into a new board structure without clear accountability to the public or the individuals these programs serve.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee not to advance SB 1505 and the proposed -1 Amendment.