

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

I OPPOSE SB 1505.

As evidenced in many of the testimonies of existing home care service entities and persons, all support fair wages, high-quality training, and professional growth for Direct Support Professionals, however, SB 1505 does not move towards any of those goals. Instead, it creates a costly duplicative bureaucracy at a time when ODHS is already facing budget cuts.

The proposed Workforce Standards Board would not result in any wage changes until at least 2029. It requires a new labor market study, a full rulemaking process, and CMS approval before anything takes effect. This workforce and the families they support cannot wait five years for a process that spends funds unnecessarily. Oregon already has the data it needs.

The 2025 APD-ODDS Rate & Wage Study clearly states that Oregon must invest \$800 million in General Fund dollars to bring DSP wages to \$23.20/hour and close the existing wage gap. SB 1505 does not implement these recommendations—it adds process without pay.

There is already extensive oversight through ODDS, DHS, OHA, OSHA, BOLI and others. Imposing workplace standards through a centralized board diminishes the voice of families, providers and advocates.

Oregon does not need more bureaucracy or a board to tell these folks what they already know, their DSP workforce deserves better pay now, not in five years. This is yet just another attempt to create and pay for something that is completely unnecessary. Please use our tax dollars more wisely. This is not it.

Vote NO on SB 1505.