

Submitter: Brett Bonin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. I am writing in opposition to SB 1505 and any forthcoming or proposed amendments that would establish a workforce standards board, and I respectfully ask the committee not to advance the bill.

1. SB 1505 sets a concerning precedent.

Even if long-term care providers are excluded, SB 1505 sets a precedent worth slowing down to consider. Once the Legislature authorizes a workforce standards board for one sector, it becomes easier to expand that authority or replicate the model elsewhere.

Many organizations are already focused on meeting growing demand while navigating an increasingly complex regulatory environment with limited funding. Adding another governing structure increases operating costs, and those costs ultimately reduce access to care for seniors and people with disabilities.

2. Workforce standards boards are not a proven or effective policy approach.

Supporters often describe workforce standards boards as a way to bring stakeholders together. In practice, there are few clear examples—particularly in healthcare—where this approach has delivered on that promise.

At the February 4, 2026 hearing, Nevada was offered as an example. Nevada's board, however, is advisory only and does not carry the scope or authority proposed in SB 1505. Boards with broader authority frequently add complexity and expense without producing better coordination or outcomes.

3. SB 1505 weakens transparency and accountability.

Oregonians benefit from a legislative process that is familiar, accessible, and transparent. They know where decisions are made and how to engage when questions or concerns arise.

SB 1505 moves workforce decisions out of those well-established processes and into a new board structure that lacks clear lines of public accountability. That shift makes it harder, not easier for providers, workers, and the public to understand how decisions are made and who is responsible for them.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee not to advance SB 1505 or any related amendments that would create a workforce standards board.

Sincerely,
Brett Bonin