

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Why are we spending time and energy talking about creating a workforce board to talk about what Direct Care Workers need when, every legislative session, advocates for people impacted by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) already tell the Legislature what is needed?

I back up what others have said in opposition to SB 1505—especially the importance of Direct Care Workers and the challenges they face trying to make ends meet for themselves and their families, while helping those they support live rich, fulfilling, and safe lives. SB 1505 is not necessary to meet those needs, and in many ways gets in the way. The best way to support people with I/DD and Direct Care Workers right now is to honor the funding that was planned for the second half of the biennium.

Everything SB 1505 tries to solve can already be addressed through existing governance and resources. There is no need to redirect funds away from services and Direct Care Workers to hire a new executive director and three new staff to administer oversight and accountability that is already or can be provided by BOLI, the DOL, ODDS, ODHS, OSHA, and other established local, State, and Federal government entities.

The one element in SB 1505 that doesn't already exist is the State-wide registry of Direct Care Workers. I don't know how such a registry would help improve the ability of Direct Care Workers to help the people they support or improve their own livelihood. We should protect our Direct Care Workers the same way Secretary Read protected Oregon voters when the Federal Government requested our information—especially if the Direct Care Worker list could be used by Unions to round up those who aren't members.

Again, I echo what other opponents of SB 1505 have already said.

If the Legislature wants information or advice about how to best help Oregonians with I/DD and the invaluable Direct Care Workers who make it all possible, all you need to do is ask or survey us directly. Chances are we'll tell you whether you ask or not – all at no charge. 😊

I am proud that the Oregon Legislature is generally supportive and sensitive to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and those who support them. I know you would provide all that is needed if resources allowed it. I support you in continuing to put the needs of those with I/DD and those who care for them at the top of the list.

Thank you,



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