

Submitter: James Parker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1505, which aims to create a Board for Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards. You can find more details in the attached document.

SB 1505 only delays important wage investments and does not focus on raising pay for workers. It offers misleading standards for wages and benefits that won't help unless the Legislature provides funding.

This Bill introduces unnecessary bureaucracy by creating a Board that adds another layer of processes instead of delivering real pay increases for Oregon's Direct Care Workforce. We don't need a Board to tell us that wages need to be higher; a recent study showed there is a \$530 million funding gap for IDD workers, with a total of \$800 million needed to raise their pay to \$23.20 an hour.

Additionally, SB 1505 gives an unelected board too much power over employment practices, allowing them to create new laws for home and community care without input from the Legislature. This could lead to unnecessary regulations.

Please vote NO on SB 1505. It fails to improve the lives of the people we serve and does not effectively raise wages for direct care workers.

Jim Parker
Resident Lake Oswego OR