

Submitter: Christie Tolman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

Testimony Regarding SB 1505

TO: Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Interim Committee On Rules and Executive Appointments DATE: January 16, 2026 RE: Opposition to SB 1505 and the Proposed -1 Amendment

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Committee Members,

It is my understanding that a forthcoming -1 amendment would remove long-term care and senior service providers from the scope of this bill. The opposition set forth below is provided based on that understanding.

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 for the following reasons:

1. This bill sets a concerning precedent

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 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.

2. This is not a proven or effective policy approach

There is no clear example of a healthcare workforce standards board successfully achieving collaborative goals. In practice, these boards often create:

Increased costs for providers and the state.

Operational confusion and regulatory overlap.

Division rather than stakeholder collaboration.

At a time when the Legislature is facing difficult budget decisions, dedicating

resources to a new board is difficult to justify. If the goal is collaboration, an advisory structure would achieve that purpose without creating a new regulatory body, ensuring accountability remains with elected legislators.

3. This bill weakens transparency and accountability

Oregonians deserve access to the established legislative due-process system. This bill shifts workforce decisions away from transparent, constitutionally grounded processes 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.

Sincerely,

Christie Tolman, Pioneer Place, Board Member