

Submitter:

Mika Shantie

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1505

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

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to Senate Bill 1505.

While I agree that Oregon's home and community-based services workforce faces serious challenges, SB 1505 takes an approach that risks delaying meaningful improvements while adding another layer of complex bureaucracy. The bill establishes a new workforce standards board with broad authority, yet it does not guarantee the funding necessary to implement or sustain the standards it may set.

I am particularly concerned that SB 1505 prioritizes process over immediate solutions. Workers and providers need timely, direct investments in wages, staffing stability, and service delivery—not additional regulatory structures that may take years to produce results. The bill also raises concerns about administrative costs, duplication of oversight, and compliance burdens that could further strain providers already operating under tight margins.

Oregon already has existing mechanisms and agencies capable of supporting workforce improvements when paired with adequate funding and legislative action. Strengthening those pathways would be more effective and accountable than creating a new board with uncertain outcomes.

For these reasons, I urge the Legislature to oppose SB 1505 and instead focus on solutions that deliver direct, measurable improvements for workers, providers, and the individuals who rely on these essential services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.