

Submitter: Amber Hess

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

One-Size-Fits-All Standards Does not Work in Home and community based services(HCBS):

Home and Community-Based Services vary widely — rural vs. urban providers, small nonprofits vs. large agencies, specialized behavioral supports vs. basic care. Uniform compensation, training, and benefits standards ignore real-world differences. Smaller providers may be unable to comply, leading to program closures or reduced services. Clients risk losing continuity of care when providers exit the system.

Risk of Reduced Access to Services: While the bill intends to strengthen the workforce, it could unintentionally reduce service availability. Increased labor costs without guaranteed funding increases could force providers to: Reduce caseloads, Limit intake, Cut non-mandated supports, Individuals who rely on HCBS — especially those with complex needs — may face longer waitlists or fewer choices.

Bottom Line, SB 1505 is well-intentioned but flawed. It adds bureaucracy, imposes rigid standards, and creates enforcement risks without ensuring funding or flexibility, potentially harming the very people it aims to support. Strengthening the HCBS workforce should focus on: Increased reimbursement rates, Targeted incentives, Provider-driven solutions, Regional flexibility—not additional regulatory layers.