



Salem Chamber

Convener | Catalyst | Champion

February 5, 2026

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senator Bruce Starr, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Opposition of SB 1505

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

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate, including fair labor practices, which incentivize employees and employers to partner together for economic growth.

We're concerned because SB 1505 adds another bureaucratic mechanism where Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries already serves alongside our state and federal statutes. Oregon already has some of the strongest protections in the nation. Our Direct Support Professionals ("DSP's") are already operating in a heavily regulated industry under multiple agency authorities including, ODDS, ODHS, OSHA, OHA, CDDP's, brokerages and Ombudsmen. The expense of this workplace standards board according to the Legislative Fiscal Office's statement on Fiscal Impact of Proposed Legislation HB 3838 (6/13/25), which is a former iteration of SB 1505, estimated taxpayer cost of \$5.3 million in 2025-27, and \$6.2 million in 2027-29 including 17 newly created state positions.

This workforce standards board will almost certainly lead to higher operating costs, which raise the cost for Medicaid-funded providers and consumers without any established mechanism for additional funding. This Board will be a powerful regulatory body with legal authority like a state agency which will ultimately divert resources from direct support to administrative overhead. Many providers are already paying wages beyond the state-funded reimbursement rate.

Please consider voting NO on SB 1505 as drafted and seek alternative methods within our existing state agencies pursuant to legislative directives to address the workplace issues being discussed.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

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Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce