

Submitter: Emile Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

Please support SB 1505 and establish a review board to set basic standards and advise the legislature on matters related to care and support for vulnerable community members. Thank you for your consideration!

- Establishing workplace standards will improve the jobs of paid caregivers, reducing turnover
- IDD clients require well trained caregivers. Without standards of training, caregivers can cause harm
- Setting expectations of wages, benefits, training, and support will settle questions of what employers must provide workers
- In the absence of standards, fraud is more likely. Standards of care must be clearly set. A new board will be alert to fraud that takes resources from IDD Oregonians
- Establishing standards for caregivers provides continuity in services over time. Standards cannot be set piecemeal by annual legislation
- The diversity of types of care providing organizations can be a strength. This diversity must not make it difficult for IDD Oregonians to evaluate quality of care
- Decisions about setting caregiving standards should be made by specialized professionals. Legislators do not have the expertise. Employers have competing interests of profit
- Workers' interests come second to profit motivations within provider businesses, even non-profit businesses. Wage and benefit standards will improve Oregon jobs
- State standards for wages and benefits is a preferable path to fair compensation. Free market struggle for fair compensation necessarily takes resources away from clients