

Submitter: Sara Lambert
On Behalf Of: Myself and all providers
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Kayse Jama, Chairman Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Bruce Starr, Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Jeff Golden
Senator James Manning Jr.
Senator Kim Thatcher

FROM: C & S Adult Foster Care/ Cole & Sara Lambert

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2026

RE: SB 1505

Honorable Legislators:

Thank you for hearing our concerns. I want to state clearly that my husband and I strongly oppose SB1505. We have been providing services to adults who experience IDD in our home for over 20 years. While yes, our job can be very challenging at times, we absolutely love what we do and can't see ourselves doing anything else. SB1505 will put an end to that. Our adult foster home is small, our funding doesn't nearly cover the cost of operation. And with the increased inflation in our country these last few years it has become even more challenging to make ends meet. I don't know any small adult foster home provider who is "getting rich" while they support the individuals they care deeply about. They do this work because they have a deep passion to help people live their best lives. This last legislative session in 2025 adult foster home IDD providers were the only service models that did not receive a cost-of-living increase. That was crushing. And now, SB1505 will add more of a financial burden onto small providers who are doing their best to stay afloat and survive. Let me be clear, I would 1000% love to be able to offer my employees higher wages per hour, with vacation time, paid sick leave, health insurance, 401(k)'s, you name it! But the funding just isn't there. Most small providers, don't have their own health insurance, retirement plans, and definitely don't get sick leave. Oregon providers and Oregon workers do not need another layer of bureaucracy in a Workforce Standards Board that will be using millions of dollars in funding that could be going directly to benefit the workers and the small providers who are diligently providing services to some of the most vulnerable people in our state. Oregon providers, especially IDD providers already feel like they don't have a voice. Creating a work for a standard

board with unelected members will quiet our voices even more. This board will cut off our voice to the legislatures. This board will further isolate Oregon providers and their employees. Let's talk about the IDD system and how individuals in these systems receive their care. IDD is a wonderfully diverse service model. Individuals have the choice to choose where they receive their services. They can receive their services in their own home "Supported Living Services", their family home "In-Home Services", in an Adult Foster Care Home, a Group Home, and for those individuals who desperately need more intensive care there is a SACU. How will a one size fits all workforce standards board encompass the complexity and diversity of all of these models? How will the Oregon legislature determine funding that would be appropriate for all of these models? What will happen is the larger service models like group homes, and SACU who already have paid lobbyists to fight for them, will get the funding they need. While the smaller service models will eventually be forced to close their doors due to a lack of funding to keep up with the workforce standards board requirements. SB1505 is a bad idea. The state of Oregon already has employee protections and standards in place. We do not need another unelected board to create more financial and administrative burdens on small businesses that will result in these providers having to close their homes. Individuals who experience IDD deserve to have a choice and where they want to live! This bill will hurt Oregon providers, which will in turn hurt the workers, and most importantly it will limit choices for Oregon's most vulnerable residence. I urge you to vote no on SB1505.

Thank you for your time and for hearing our concerns.

~Cole & Sara Lambert