



House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Testimony in Support of SB 1518

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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With over 500,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families, with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

AARP Oregon is pleased to support SB 1518 A-Eng. that would maintain wage and overtime standards for certain employees of home care agencies and similar providers. Notably, SB 1518 A-Eng. provides flexibility for individuals who directly employ companionship workers by exempting them from the bill's minimum wage and overtime provisions.

Increasing the availability and quality of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) remains a top priority for AARP. AARP is fighting for older Americans to have high-quality, affordable options when it comes to long-term care—especially care at home. After a lifetime of hard work and contributing to our society, older Oregonians deserve to live with independence, security, and dignity.

To create secure environments for older Oregonians we need to ensure adequate numbers of staff that can provide in-facility care or home care. SB 1518 A-Eng.'s protection of wage and overtime standards can help attract and retain workers providing care in the community.

In addition to HCBS being generally acknowledged as less costly than facility-based care, AARP surveys reflect a strong desire for individuals to remain in their homes as they age. For instance, a 2023 AARP [survey](#) of Oregonians age 45 and over showed that 97% of respondents reported it's important for them to live in their own homes as they get older.

We urge passage of SB 1518 A-Eng.