

February 1, 2022

To: Chair Sara Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Art Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

As a member of AAUW of Oregon and someone who has needed to find caregivers for my mother and my aunt in the past, I am asking you to support SB 1556. It was difficult and always scary for me to find someone whom I could trust and who had the necessary training and skills to appropriately take care of my mother after her stroke and to care for my aunt after her many falls.

SB 1556 would allow consumers and families seeking care or services will be able to access a registry and confirm that their caregiver has met all requirements. That would have been a significant help to me.

This public certification process can lead to better and more consistent compensation for these challenging jobs. Better wages for homecare workers mean better care for consumers and their families, and demand for these services is on the rise.

Homecare workers will be able to access their own records which can be useful as they build career pipelines and invest in professional development. These pathways include jobs such as certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses. Demand for these positions is also robust and growing.

All these things would not only benefit individuals such as myself in seeking caregivers for family members, but society as a whole and the care-giving and medical profession by raising standards and allowing transparency for providers and consumers alike.

I ask that you do all you can to make this bill become law in Oregon including voting for it.

Sincerely,

Georgia Applegate

Williams, OR