

February 1, 2022

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

I am writing as a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, Ashland Branch, where I serve as a member of the Public Policy Committee. I want to express my strong **support** for **Senate Bill 1556**.

This legislation creates and phases in a certification process administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) for homecare workers and personal attendants, and authorizes DHS to make this certification information available to the public.

I am almost 70 years old and will move into a new house this spring with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. I have specifically designed the house to have one bedroom and one bathroom located for a live-in caregiver, in anticipation that I might need such care in the future. **This legislation will give me peace of mind that I will be able to find a reliable, knowledgeable and qualified person to live with me.**

Demand for these services is on the rise. Consumers and families seeking care or services will be able to access a registry and confirm that their caregiver has met all requirements. A public certification process will lead to better and more consistent compensation for these challenging jobs. Better wages for homecare workers means better care for consumers and their families.

As I mentioned, this legislation will help me as my needs change in the future; it will also help caregivers such as certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses as they build careers and invest in professional development.

I urge you to **vote yes on Senate Bill 1556**.

Thank you.

Lisa Verner

Lisa Verner, FAICP
Member, Public Policy Committee
AAUW Oregon, Ashland Branch