

February 1, 2022

Chair Sara Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Art Robinson, Members of the Senate Committee for Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Senate Bill 1556. I do so as a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon and as part of the Ashland AAUW Branch Public Policy team.

This bill would make the certification information for homecare workers and personal attendants available to the public. This would be a welcome increase in transparency. As Oregonians age, families would be able to access a registry and confirm that their caregiver has met all certification requirements. This process can also lead to better and more consistent compensation for these challenging jobs. In addition, it can encourage caregivers to pursue professional development, such as becoming licensed practical nurses and registered nurses.

As a 71-year-old who has had Type 1 diabetes (insulin-dependent) for 52 of my years, I am cognizant that I may well need a competent caregiver as I continue to age. I have managed my own insulin regimen for many years, but there may well come a time when I will need assistance. Finding such a competent and educated caregiver could be a life-or-death situation. Thus transparency in choosing such a person would be critical.

Senate Bill 1556 would allow for such transparency, and I urge you to vote Yes on this bill.

Respectfully,

Mary Renaud
Member of Public Policy team
Ashland Branch, American Association of University Women of Oregon