

February 1, 2022

From: Eleanor Marie Mueller

Re: Support for SB 1556—Certification for Home Care Workers and Personal Attendants

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

Please support this bill. As the wife of a disabled veteran who was a long-time Oregon citizen and former educator, I found that such care was not difficult to access, as long as one was willing to pay, but that the care providers/attendants were sometimes not well trained and/or not respectful. My husband had dementia and Stage IV cancer, but he was not violent. Instead, he could not advocate for himself or communicate his needs.

- One attendant repeatedly arrived smelling strongly of urine. I spoke with her—no change; I spoke to the company who provided her—no change. I discussed it again and she said the person whom she served prior to my husband had major incontinence issues. We agreed that she would clean up before arriving, and that worked—but it shouldn't have been necessary.
- A different attendant was so young that she provided no personal care, but she did a good job of polishing the faucets and cleaning counters. That wasn't why she was hired.
- A home care nurse (RN) left as soon as she found that my husband could ride in a car to receive therapy. She didn't consider the difficulty I had in getting him into the car.

This eventually resulted in in (1) my sudden retirement from teaching at Rogue Community College, and finally in (2) my husband staying at a health and rehabilitation center in Grants Pass.

In general, the facility's staff was competent and most had CNA, LPN, or similar certification, with some CNA-Medical. The facility had regular RNs on-site 24/7 and doctors on call, so that was a step up. There were still issues with speed of response to patients' needs and also to respect in the interactions with patients. I was there every day, unless I was ill, for two years, so I witnessed this. I am certain that my presence on a regular and unscheduled basis improved my husband's care.

Please vote YES.

E. Marie Mueller

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