



State Senator James I. Manning, Jr.

Senate President Pro Tempore

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To: Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

From: State Senator James I. Manning, Jr., Senate District 7

Date: February 1, 2022

Subject: SB 1556

Dear Chair Gelsler Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share a letter of support for SB 1556, which will create a certification and public registry for caregivers. I am a co-chief sponsor of this legislation along with my colleagues Senator Patterson and Senator Kennemer.

The caregiving workforce is made up mostly of women and includes many women of color. Caregivers work hard, long hours, and COVID has exacerbated high turnover and other staffing challenges, all of which have additional impacts on consumers and family members alike. I have heard from multiple constituents in my district who struggle with the emotional toll of placing aging parents in assisted living or memory care facilities, and then worry about the quality of care those loved ones receive.

SB 1556 is the next step to strengthening worker training and quality within Oregon's long-term care industry. It creates and phases in a certification for caregivers in in-home care and community-based care settings alongside a publicly accessible registry that will give family members confidence that care workers have met all training and background check requirements. In the long term, this bill will support a career ladder for workers by encouraging standardization of quality training and allowing for a portable certification from one job to another, ultimately giving caregivers access to job mobility and advancement. We must take these steps in order to keep caregivers doing this work and address the growing demand for quality care in the coming decade.

I urge you to move SB 1556 to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Senator James I. Manning, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore
Senate District 7