

February 3, 2022

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

As a member of AAUW of Oregon and the Public Policy Co-Chair for the Tillamook Branch, I am writing in support of SB 1556 and Homecare Worker Certification.

SB 1556 assures those seeking health care that their homecare providers have met all requirements. As demand for home health care rises, ensuring that those in need of services, who may be at a vulnerable point in their life, are being served by well-trained individuals is critical. This bill may pave the way to better compensation for chronically under-paid individuals but in a field where staffing shortages are rampant, understanding how those increased costs affect providers will be necessary. It is also possible that this may impact individuals in the field who are competent and passionate about their jobs but who may have made past mistakes in their personal lives and that should be considered.

But, for the user, being confident that they are receiving care from adequately trained homecare workers is essential and SB 1556 is a step in that direction.

Sincerely,

Lisa Phipps
Tillamook, OR