

February 2, 2022

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

I am writing this letter in support for Senate Bill 1556: Creating a Certification and Public Registry for Home and Community Based Services Caregivers.

After retiring from a teaching career in Utah, 2008, I thoroughly investigated my geographical options for relocation, and choose to settle in Ashland, Oregon. I have loved living in a community that offers many rich cultural, educational, and recreational options. I don't have family in Oregon, but have cultivated many friends and affiliations, including Association of University Women. It has been a wonderful adventure, but one that I recognize, at 76, does not give me that family support beneficial during aging. This is my home and I don't want to move to gain that support. So, like so many of my friends, I am addressing caregiving needs as I age. I want to stay in my own home, but am really nervous about choosing someone to offer me assistance.

I have discussed this with friends lately and we all agree, that whether we choose to "age in place" or move to a community facility, we want to be certain those that take care of us are reliable, trustworthy, honest and have our interests at heart. I was really relieved to hear about Senate Bill 1556 that proposes to create a certification and public registry that tracks and monitors the certification and endorsements a worker has earned, the training they have completed, and their background check status. With this transparency and safety, the process of seeking care and services will be simplified with confidence.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Brandon  
Ashland, Oregon  
AAUW Branch