

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



Testimony in Support of SB 1556

February 21, 2022

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Prosperity committee,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron and I am the State Representative for House District 26 which includes communities from Hillsboro through Wilsonville along the urban growth boundary.

Caregivers provide essential long-term care for seniors and individuals with disabilities who are some of our most vulnerable community members. With workforce shortages leaving care facilities understaffed and overworked, along with an expected increase in demand for care providers to increase by 36% in the next decade¹, recruitment and retention to grow our caregiver workforce is essential .

SB 1556 creates and phases in a certification and endorsement process administered by Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), creates a publicly-accessible Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Worker Registry, and directs ODHS to align certification requirements. The bill creates a foundation for a career ladder that encourages career mobility and advancement for caregivers, helps reduce turnover, and attracts workers by building a pipeline into health professions. Additionally, consumers and family members would have access to a public registry to confirm a caregiver's certification and training. SB 1556 is rooted in addressing both the workforce crisis while also ensuring transparency and accountability.

This bill has bipartisan support and builds on the good work that was done in the 2021 session for nursing homes and long-term care. I urge your support for HB 1556.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Courtney Neron

¹https://seiu503.org/member_news/sb1556/#:~:text=Demand%20for%20care%20providers%20in,we%20know%20is%20coming%20soon.