

HB 5026

3/1/23

Co-Chair Senator Campos, Co-Chair Representative Valderrama, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services.

My name is Miranda Rector of Hermiston, Oregon. I am writing in response to today's meeting and I pose a question to you:

Why is the State of Oregon allocating Caregiver hours that they cannot pay or do not want to budget for?

I say this because today – and at past meetings -Senator Gelser Blouin has made clear comments stating her worry that “parents who do not currently want workers in their home and solely use CDDP for case management” will start to feel “entitlement” to claiming \$22-\$24. Ultimately, why does this matter? The hours are already allocated to children, regardless of who is claiming them; Therefore, if budgeting is done correctly, the money to pay these hours should already be available. Or is the State blindly giving out hours? Or allocating hours to disabled children and banking on families not having workers to claim the hours? Either way, that is unacceptable.

Senator Gelser's commentary about parents being able to get paid for “cutting meat at dinner and zipping up their jacket.” Well, unfortunately, not every child can do that on their own. And these are life-skills that non-parent support workers get paid for anyway. Care takers get paid to help children cut their food, eat, choose clothing, and get dressed. My three-year-old typical child can feed and dress himself while I go about my day - my 5 year old disabled child cannot. Senator Gelser's words are offensive, if not discriminatory.

With that said, I do not believe any parent is taking advantage of the system or taking resources away from anyone, which is why many of us are in support of having a bill that is inclusive to all. In addition, she mentioned “conflict of interest”. Unfortunately, I believe that there is conflict of interest with Sen. Gelser Blouin being on this committee and being able to continuously defend her bill every step of the way but Sen. Knopp has not been granted the same opportunity.

Thank You,  
Miranda Rector