

SB 570 Agency with Choice - new homecare program type.

Senate Committee on Human Services,

My name is Elizabeth Pierce and I am a Home Care Worker in White City, Oregon. I am expressing my strong support for SB 570, which has the potential to create a new category of homecare option in Oregon.

This bill would not change or replace the current OHCC system, but rather, it would complement the current system by ensuring more stability for both clients and workers.

The issue I currently experience is the lack of respite care. I currently live in the same home as my consumer, and have no ability to leave overnight for a short stay with family, or go camping, etc., as there is no one who can come in to provide respite. I haven't had a "day off" for over six months. I would love to be able to travel to see family on the Oregon Coast, or even drive to Klamath Falls to spend a few days with my sister and her family. My consumer would also benefit from respite as she worries about my wellbeing. I know I am not the only Home Care worker who does not have access to respite, as I have met several workers over the past few months in need of respite. Please consider what it would be like to spend 7 days per week at your job with no option for a break, and consider how passing SB 570 would benefit the wellbeing of our aging consumers and their dedicated workers.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Pierce