

Chair Gelser-Blouin, and members of the committee

My name is Joy'e Willman and I am currently a Personal Support Worker. I have been a caregiver for over 30 years and I've done both homecare and private agency work.

I would like to speak in favor of SB 570 which would create a new type of homecare option in Oregon. I was on the team who helped to create the Homecare union portion of SEIU but first we had to actually create the Homecare Commission to have an Employer of choice for bargaining purposes. With the commission we work together to create an environment that helps the State Human Services and Homecare workers to work together for the consumers best interest. We don't want to change that but instead, add to it.

Some consumers don't want to be their own employer of record, but also don't have others in their personal orbit who could be, but they still want to have input in their day to day care. They appreciate continuity of care and building a relationship with the workers, so we as workers are helping them with their historical care also. Especially those with memory issues.

But the State has such a staffing issue now that I have heard many concerns that people are being referred to private agencies instead of having a Homecare Worker because it makes it easier for the already overworked staff. Then we lose consumers or if we follow our consumer to a private agency we lose our benefits

If we have our own State agency and the consumer decides to go into that type of care, we can go with the consumer, help with continuity of care and not lose our benefits. Also please consider the fact that our training program is designed to have consistent standards to help the ever growing aging population in Oregon.

The state should not send folks to non union private agencies that cost the state more at the expense of the Homecare worker sector that helped create the Oregon Homecare Commission.

Thank you  
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