



Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa, and members of the committee:

My name is Debbie Koreski and I'm writing on behalf of RISE Partnership in support of HB 3306.

RISE delivers training, education and benefit navigation to Oregon's care providers and public sector workers. RISE believes in building up a strong, supported health care and long-term care workforce centering equity and integrity in all its programs.

RISE's Long-Term CareWorks program provides workers in Oregon's skilled nursing facilities and other long-term care settings with collaborative training, apprenticeship and mentorships programs that help workers move up the career ladder and make meaningful career improvements — helping both the workers we serve and healthcare workforce overall, which is still struggling to regain its footing after the devastating impacts of the pandemic.

Part of RISE's values are to ensure that every worker has opportunities to learn and grow, especially our health care workers. Our CareWorks program is on track to train over 200 CNAs every year, funneling them into our 46 skilled nursing facility partners across the state and guaranteeing them well-paying, high-quality jobs at the end of their program. In the coming years, we anticipate capacity to train closer to 400 CNAs.

In our programs, we believe every worker should:

- Get paid while they learn
- Have access to wraparound services
- Receive guaranteed employment after training

Our programs are collaborative partnerships with all of our employers, who are committed to filling the workforce gaps by investing in their employees. On average, our nursing assistants get paid \$19-20 an hour in our programs and more than \$22 an hour upon certification.

We are supportive and grateful of the state investments into our healthcare and long-term care workforces over the past two years. In addition to Future Ready Oregon dollars, the state also invested in the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust through SB 800 in 2021 — with this investment, we've been able to provide our workers with high-quality healthcare that continues to prop up and support these critical, under supported workers.

With the state making such massive investments, it's critical that we ensure wage standards are in place for our workforce programs. RISE is supportive of the sideboards in HB 3306 as they align with the values we've been following successfully for years — we urge your passage of this common-sense legislation.

Thank you,
Debbie

525 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232 • contact@RISEpartnership.com • RISEpartnership.com