



HSCO testimony in support of HB 4129: Homecare Modernization Act

Monday, February 12th, 2024

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

We write to express the strong support of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) for HB 4129, the Homecare Modernization Act. The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) believes that all Oregonians should be entitled to a safe place to call home, food on the table, and opportunities to thrive with educational, work and support programs available to help each person succeed. As advocates for the human service system, we believe that this legislation is a critical step toward building a more equitable and accessible homecare system that meets the diverse needs of Oregonians across the state.

Oregon's population is aging, and the demand for homecare services is increasing. However, many individuals and families face barriers to accessing the care and support they need to remain independent and healthy at home. HB 4129 addresses these challenges by improving access to homecare services, supporting families who wish to care for their loved ones at home, and strengthening the caregiving workforce that provides essential support to our communities. This bill would advance HSCO's primary objectives in several key ways.

Equity and Access: HB 4129 aligns with the Human Services Coalition's commitment to promoting equity and access to essential services for all Oregonians. By improving access to homecare services, the legislation helps ensure that individuals and families can receive the care and support they need, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Support for Family Caregivers: Many individuals prefer to receive care at home, surrounded by their loved ones and familiar surroundings. HB 4129 recognizes the importance of supporting family caregivers and providing them with the resources and assistance they need to provide quality care to their loved ones at home.

Investment in the Caregiving Workforce: The caregiving workforce plays a vital role in supporting individuals and families in their homes. HB 4129 acknowledges the importance of this workforce and seeks to improve working conditions, training opportunities, and compensation for caregivers, ensuring that they can continue to provide high-quality care to those in need.

Community Well-being: A strong and responsive homecare system is essential for the well-being of our communities. By supporting HB 4129, we can help ensure that individuals and families have the support they need to remain independent and healthy at home, reducing the strain on other healthcare resources and promoting the overall health and stability of our communities.

We urge you to consider the significant impact that HB 4129 can have on the lives of Oregonians across the state. By supporting this legislation, we can take a critical step toward building a more equitable, accessible, and responsive homecare system that meets the diverse needs of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Human Services Coalition of Oregon