

# Homecare Modernization Act - HB 4129



As a caregiver, I help the elderly in my community with personal care – things like bathing, dressing, preparing meals, doing laundry, and keeping their home safe for them. I also help them manage things that get harder when you're old, like medical appointments, budgeting, transportation, and managing medications. I've had lots of clients over the years, and I am proud of the work I did to keep them cared for at home.

- Regena Williams, Portland

A few years ago, I started working with a client that was in early stages of dementia. Miss V lived up on the second floor and the state had approved her for just 5 hours a day of in-home care. **Even at the beginning, I knew 5 hours was not enough to meet her needs.** We were managing for a while, but I knew she was declining. I went to the case manager with my notes and explained that her dementia was progressing. She was leaving the stove on, not taking her medications, and becoming more frail. I also noticed something was going on with her finances. Bills weren't getting paid, she was neglected. I had to be her advocate and get her somewhere safe. We were able to get her into a nursing home.

As her caregiver, I was on the eyes on the ground watching and I'm so thankful I helped her get to a safe situation. **I basically saved this woman's life, and I worked myself out of a job doing it.** These people need help and there aren't enough caregivers willing to do the work. I have clients from years ago calling me and saying they need help and can't find it. And there are so many caregivers out there who give so much to their clients until they pass on or need to move to the nursing home, **and then they are left without a paycheck while they mourn the loss of their consumer and try to find new work.**

The Homecare Modernization Act (HB 4129) would help bring stability to workers who lose a client. With Miss V, I was putting all of my energy into getting her to a safe place. I didn't have the support I needed to plan for my next move. **If the state had a dedicated agency with choice to help plan for the transition and connect me with new clients, I would have been back to work quicker helping someone else.**

Find Out More



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