

Submitter: Joy'e Willman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4129

Hello my name is Joy'e Willman and I have been a homecare worker for over 30 years in Portland. I worked for one gentleman with cerebral Palsy for 26 years. I was on the team that created the homecare union and the Oregon Homecare Commission. As care providers, when we go into someone's home to work we make them feel protected and respected. Our task lists have duties that are prescribed by the state to keep them safe in their home and community. Over the last few years, we have had more and more problems with late pay issues and private pay agencies taking our workers by promising higher pay. We have issues with getting back up workers now, if we get sick we have to go in to work sick or stay home knowing our clients won't have the help that they need. I help my consumer with food safety, doctor's appointments, advocating for herself, delegated nursing tasks, bathing and hygiene, community inclusion, money safety, social safety, housekeeping, assisting with meetings and many other tasks with her mental and health issues. It takes training and practice to keep her in a safe place and able to keep up on a daily basis. I've known this consumer for 31 years. I've seen her go from a full time worker a consumer. Even though I've been working with her for years, we still have pay issues and background check issues every time I need to review my provider number with the state. The Homecare Modernization Act could help solve issues with background checks, pay issues, continuity of care, respite coverage, all while maintaining respect for the consumers and the workers. The Oregon Homecare Commission model is not enough to meet the needs in the community. We need to enhance care options for the silver tsunami that is coming in. There are standards that need to be set to keep all care provider entities accountable to providing top quality care, like the ones in HB 4129. Please vote to pass HB 4129!