

Hi I'm Joy Vegar from Lakeside on the Southern Coast. I've been a homecare worker for over 20 years, and a personal care attendant for over 10 years. As the oldest of four children and the only girl, I grew up taking care of my brothers and babysitting for my neighbors. I love my job taking care of people and letting them stay in their own homes and live their lives.

But there are problems with the job through the state. I have had issues clocking in and out at some of my jobs. Living in rural Oregon doesn't always mean having the best access to technology.

Two of my current clients are a mother and daughter who were in a car accident over 25 years ago. They both sustained brain injuries along with their physical injuries. Because I'm there, the mom gets to leave and go do errands, grocery shop, or just take the dog for a walk. Having broader access to workers would cover all of the hours they have. As well as coverage for when I can't be there or the other worker is sick. I tube feed the daughter, help with bathing, do laundry, crush medications, and order refills. I clean up the kitchen and sweep the floors.

I have another client who had her annual reassessment recently. The first time that I went to clock in at her house the system said that I had zero hours. It was a holiday. There was no one to contact for help, so I went ahead and worked even though I wasn't sure I would get paid for it.

House Bill 4129 would upgrade systems and provide support. It would give my clients more choices. I am asking for you to please support this bill. Homecare is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

Thank you,

Joy Vegar

Lakeside