

My name is Angela Jelley, I have 35 years of experience as a homecare worker. I do this work because I love it – and it's what I'm meant to do. I was born in Roseburg in Douglas County, I am a lifelong Oregonian. I currently work as a personal support worker (PSW) and a homecare worker. I specialize in critical needs children through CIIS and also in hospice, mainly for combat veterans.

I am having a very difficult time getting approved for a new client with very special needs. I have been working for ten years for the CIIS program. It's taken me four months and I'm still not approved, and this is after the family has already chosen me as the best person for this child. Without my support, this child could be institutionalized. This experience is not unique – this is just one example of the challenges of working in the state program. Sometimes it feels like we are just getting the run-around, being passed from person to person trying to do basic things like fill out paperwork just to get paid or provide care and support.

I have 35 years of experience. I work with children at home that need respirators, ventilators, tube feedings, and suction. I do IVs, I give shots and other medications. I give high-quality care with honor and respect to my clients and their families. I also do the simple tasks like folding laundry and doing dishes that ensure that people can live with dignity and honor. My veteran clients get to live their final days of their life as they choose – with honor and respect.

House Bill 4129 would give me a single place to call to get answers, I would have the advantages of an agency with an HR, and my high-needs consumers could find the workers they need. And I could find high quality respite care that I cannot find right now. On the most basic level, I want to be able to do the job that I love and focus on my clients, not whether I will be paid or how I am going to meet my basic needs.

Oregonians need homecare. Overwhelmingly people would rather stay in their home than be in a facility, and the work that I and my fellow workers do every day helps fulfill that desire. We owe it to our veterans, to our children, to some of our most vulnerable residents to ensure they can access the support they need, in their homes, and with dignity.

Thank you,

Angie Jelley

Reedsport

