

February 11th, 2024

My name is Michelle Oeder and I live in Lebanon. I have been a Homecare Worker for twelve years supporting two different community members.

I began my caregiving career at the age of 18 giving me over 35 years of experience in care work. Although I have been a Homecare Workers for over twelve years; late pay and having to work unapproved extra hours for consumers in a medical and/or mental health crisis, have had a negative impact on my employment.

Having knowledgeable and skilled Homecare Workers allows consumers of all abilities to remain in their homes maintaining the dignity, respect and independence we all deserve.

Managing medications, medical appointments, dressing, grooming, bathing are some of the aspects of my daily duties. Having the support and training to accomplish these tasks ensures my consumer the freedom and the choice to remain in their own home.

Inconsistencies in pay have caused hardships for me on more than one occasion. In my experience, hours worked for a consumer who has more than one caregiver working for them, resulted in waiting for my paycheck for over a month. This caused me to be late on my bills, my rent and other necessities.

Passing House Bill 4129 will create a new option for workers who are frustrated with these broken state systems. Being paid on time consistently will ensure that consumers will retain quality employees. Caregivers such as myself will have less worries and less stress about meeting their needs such as food, housing and transportation.

I urge you to support this bill. I challenge you to show you care for Oregon's most vulnerable population and support the caregivers who show up for consumers every day.

Michelle Oeder

Lebanon, Linn County