



February 12, 2024

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is West Livaudais, founder of the Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection. I live with a spinal cord injury and this org serves thousands of Oregonians living with paralysis.

I would like to express my strong support for HB 4129, the Homecare Modernization Act. Oregon must do more to support its direct homecare workforce that plays a crucial role in supporting individuals with spinal cord injuries to remain living healthily in their homes. Research shows that people living at home, surrounded by their natural family and community supports have fewer secondary health conditions and inpatient stays, and this translates to higher quality of life and lower health care costs. By investing in Oregon caregiver workforce development, HB 4129 ensures that caregivers have the training, resources, and support they need to provide high-quality care so that people living with paralysis can thrive at home.

As an organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living with spinal cord injuries (SCI), this legislation is essential for enhancing the accessibility and quality of homecare services for our community members. I hear from members in our community weekly that they can not find homecare workers to allow them to not only receive the support they need but remain actively engaged in their community. Additionally, because there is high turnover, many workers need training to perform the work they're hired to do.

I urge you to support HB 4129 and take meaningful action to improve the lives of individuals with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities in Oregon. By prioritizing accessibility, family support, and caregiver workforce development, we can create a more inclusive and supportive homecare system that benefits all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "West Livaudais".

West Livaudais, Founder/Executive Director

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection