

2/11/2025

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the Early Childhood and Human Services committee:

My name is Charlotte Kreftmeyer, I am an Adult Foster Home Provider under the APD classification living and working in Ontario, Oregon. I am submitting my personal testimony on behalf of APD providers like me, and that of the other two Adult Foster Homes of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. My testimony is in support of HB2560. Providers have long needed a rise in service payments and seeing that it is acknowledged and there is understanding of this in part goes a long way, however there are still two other home types that are being left out that are equally important to the care standard of Oregon.

Adult Foster Homes are a needed necessity in Oregon, we offer a homelike family environment that individuals can feel safe and secure in while receiving the care they so need and deserve. Adult Foster Homes not only are a small safe way for these individuals to live and progress through their often-difficult care needs, but at the same time offer care services at a fraction of the cost of big care facilities as well as group homes and RTF's.

In these past years we have seen nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other care types receive increases in service payments, I know the cost of care goes up each year, however each time the state has had extra funding or funding to assist the care sector, we the Adult Foster Homes are left out of every increase. We provide the same care on so many levels albeit on a smaller volume.

HB2560 is a beginning on ensuring that APD Adult Foster Homes receive an increase in service payments, however the methodology on this is still very unclear and as such I would request that Adult Foster Home providers along with SEIU 503 are included in the methodology to set the rates for providers. Providers are necessary to establishing the new rate structure, we are the ones providing the services and we fully understand the time and effort required to support our individuals. Not including providers could potentially lead to reduced rates, and this can affect not only the homes but the individuals themselves. Providers and individuals are connected, that's the benefit of Adult Foster Homes.

As a provider I am concerned that the raises will come from lowering assessment scores of high-level individuals to make them fit the pay scale, instead of the scale reflecting the individual's care needs. There is a reason we have the higher levels of care homes such as the Specific Needs Homes, Behavior Homes and Mental Health High Needs Homes, these

individuals have been turned away from most AFH's, Assisted Livings, Nursing Homes and Hospitals for care and these contract and high level homes have made it so these individuals can have small home-like care environment to assist in their health recovery and/or progression through illness and disabilities that they face on a daily basis.

I urge the Committee to include providers, alongside SEIU 503, in developing a methodology that supports both Adult Foster Homes and the individuals we serve. By working together, we can create a system that ensures high-quality care while safeguarding the well-being of both providers and those in our care. To reiterate I am in support of HB2560, however it needs to be expanded to cover all 3 licensing types as well as ensure there are no reductions in rates or classifications of Adult Foster Homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Kreftmeyer

Adult Foster Home APD Provider, Malheur County