



**March 13, 2025**  
**Senate Committee on Human Services**  
**Re: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1073**

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1073, which proposes the creation of a Family Home Health Aide (HHA) Program under the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This program would certify family caregivers as HHAs, enabling them to provide qualified home health services to eligible relatives enrolled in the state medical assistance program. While we appreciate the bill's intent to address Oregon's care provider shortage and support family caregivers, SEIU Local 503 must oppose the bill in its current form due to concerns about its lack of clarity, potential overlap with existing programs, and its impact on the long-term care workforce we represent.

The bill outlines a scope of care for family HHAs that includes assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), basic medical care, and emergency supports—tasks already performed by Homecare Workers (HCWs), Personal Support Workers (PSWs), and Personal Care Attendants (PCAs). Many paid caregivers are already family members, though fewer are Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). Since HHAs in Oregon must be CNAs, it's unclear how this bill addresses workforce shortages or improves care delivery. The bill references HHAs regulated by OHA, suggesting a focus on medical services, but its language also hints at overlap with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) programs. Without a clear problem statement, it's difficult to assess whether this bill is the right solution or if it risks creating new issues. For example, why is an HHA certification needed when homecare workers and personal care attendants already provide similar services?

Additionally, the bill raises important questions about funding and eligibility. Would this program pay family caregivers for their work? Is it limited to Medicaid-eligible individuals? If the program is not restricted to Medicaid recipients, it opens up broader policy discussions about compensation and workforce development. If the goal is to support family caregivers financially, it may make more sense to encourage them to become homecare workers, who are already part of a structured system with established training, oversight, and career pathways.

SEIU Local 503 represents thousands of home and community-based care providers, including HCWs, PSWs, and PCAs. Senate Bill 1073 risks duplicating and conflicting with existing systems. Oregon already has career development pathways through the Oregon Homecare Commission. Introducing a new certification without integrating it into this framework could fragment the workforce and undermine efforts to build a cohesive caregiving system.

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The bill also raises practical concerns about training, oversight, and accessibility, particularly in rural or underserved areas. Family caregivers would need to complete training and meet competency standards, but the bill does not specify how training will be funded, delivered, or standardized statewide. Section 1, Subsection (5) requires family HHAs to be employed by a home care provider and receive clinical supervision every 90 days, which may be impractical for many families, especially in areas with limited access to providers.

While we oppose the bill as drafted, we appreciate the bill's intent and would welcome the opportunity to engage in discussions with the proponents about their goals and possible solutions. We urge the committee to clarify the bill's intent and the specific problem(s) it aims to solve. Any new program must align with existing workforce structures, including ODHS programs, while protecting the rights and roles of represented workers. Clear guidance on oversight, funding, and implementation is essential to prevent duplication and ensure feasibility.

We also urge the committee to engage with organizations representing this workforce, paid and unpaid care workers, and family caregivers to better understand the challenges and opportunities this bill presents. Thoughtful collaboration with stakeholders is critical to developing solutions that truly meet the needs of Oregon's caregivers and care recipients.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We look forward to working with the committee to ensure that any legislation in this area is inclusive, effective, and supportive of the workforce that provides essential care to Oregonians every day.

Sincerely,

Courtney Graham  
SEIU Local 503