

March 13, 2025

Senate Human Services Committee  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR, 97301

**RE: SUPPORT SB1073 – Family Home Health Aide Program**

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

Thank you for hearing SB1073, to create a family home health aide program in the state of Oregon. Thank you to Senator Nash for sponsoring this legislation.

My name is Kate Morrison, and I am the Director of West Coast Government Affairs for Maxim Healthcare Services. At Maxim, we provide in-home skilled nursing care to medically fragile children and adults nationwide, including here in Oregon. PDN care in the home is an alternative to hospital-stays and where families overwhelmingly prefer to be.

In my role, I manage policy and advocacy in eleven states, and I am proud to say that when it comes to supporting PDN families, Oregon is setting the standard for all other Western states through:

- Competitive rates,
- An effective, regular rate review process,
- Nurse retention and recruitment efforts, and
- Low-barrier administrative processes.

The Family Home Health Aide (FHHA) program is another piece of this package of services for medically fragile kids. As you know, the home care workforce is facing a significant shortage of direct care workers, including home health aides, personal care aides, and private duty nurses. As a result of fewer available workers and long waitlists because of a high demand for services, many families are seeking the opportunity for parents and family members to work as caregivers to fill the gap in care. This is particularly important for rural families.

**FHHA is unique from other family caregiving programs that currently exist in Oregon and covers a population – medically fragile children – not currently addressed.** For example, the Children's Extraordinary Needs Program provides attendant or personal care level of care, whereas the FHHA program will cover medical care.

We want to support these families, but we also want to ensure that these types of programs are run safely and provide adequate training. SB1073 provides a foundation based on best practices for Oregon to develop a family home health aide program, including:

- Establishing the training and certification of family caregivers,
- Defines the services that family home health aides may provide under the Medicaid program,

- Establishing clinical supervision requirements to medically frail Medicaid beneficiaries receiving qualified home health services,
- Develops a respite program for family caregivers, and
- Establishing electronic visit verification and reporting requirements to deter fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as collect metrics on the success of the program.

We are grateful to the Oregon State Board of Nursing, with whom we've connected with and look forward to working with to further refine the scope of practice and responsibilities. We have also started conversations with ODHS and OHA and know there is more work and collaboration to be done there.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for your support of medically fragile kids in Oregon. Please contact me with questions at [caperezl@maxhealth.com](mailto:caperezl@maxhealth.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Morrison".

Catherine Morrison, MPH  
Director, State Government Affairs  
Maxim Healthcare Services