

March 18, 2025
Senate Committee on Healthcare
Re: Support SB 27

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee:

My name is Daisy Garcia-Hernandez, and I am writing in support of SB 27, and to share my experience with a CNA apprenticeship program called Long-Term Care Works, a program of RISE Partnership.

I believe that investing in apprenticeship programs like the one I was a part of is crucial for people like me who have the drive and desire to further their careers. However, many Oregonians are unable to get the education they need to further their careers because of the financial burden it would create. These apprenticeship programs help alleviate that burden and allow those individuals the opportunity they otherwise would not have.

The Long-Term-Care Works program provided a stipend that allowed me to leave my last job to fully immerse myself in the program. During the day when I would normally be working, I participated in class, and at home, I focused on studying the material.

My career coach was an asset to my success in the program. Having someone with previous experience as a CNA gave me comfort because I knew that if I was ever struggling or if I had a question, he would be able to help me. There was a time when I was nervous about taking my written test and he offered to schedule study sessions with me. Afterwards, I felt more prepared, and my nerves were settled. To this day, my career coach always says, "If you have any questions don't be afraid to reach out," and I know he will always be happy to help me with anything I need.

In addition, every person is hand-selected for these programs. This means we are more likely to incorporate both competent and reliable people into our healthcare team. As a result, patients receive the quality care they deserve from someone who will show up for them, with care and compassion.

Please vote yes on SB 27.

Respectfully,

Daisy Garcia-Hernandez