

Submitter: Tony Cortes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Tony Cortes, a proud member of SEIU503 in Oregon since 2010. On behalf of all workers in every healthcare department, I am writing in strong support of ongoing funding for the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust (EWHT) through Senate Bills 27-2 and 283-1.

As a long-term care worker, having access to quality, affordable healthcare through EWHT makes a world of difference in how I feel about my job. Knowing that I have coverage gives me the security and peace of mind to focus on providing the best care for others. Without this healthcare, I don't know if I would feel safe continuing in this line of work. Caregivers also need care, and I want to know that my family and I are being taken care of too.

This healthcare is not just a benefit—it's a necessity. It ensures that I can continue to do my job without the constant worry of unexpected medical expenses. It provides my family with stability and reassurance that, no matter what happens, we will have access to the care we need. A fair deal for essential workers means we can keep showing up for our communities every day, giving our best to those who rely on us.

The ability of EWHT to offer healthcare to more long-term care workers in Oregon is critical. Without it, our future becomes uncertain. The rising costs of medical care and everyday living mean that a single injury—whether on or off the job—could be financially devastating. We cannot afford to lose this support. For the health, safety, and survival of essential workers, we must continue funding EWHT.

Because our lives matter in your care, we are giving you the opportunity to be proud of us! Fund us!

Tony Cortes, Certified Medication Aide, Sapphire at Fernhill