

Submitter: Ron Strle
On Behalf Of: SB 27 SB 283
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of continued investment in healthcare benefits for essential workers in Oregon's long-term care sector through SB 27 and SB 283. As A CNA at Hood River Post Acute I understand that access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is a key factor in attracting and retaining a stable workforce. The Essential Worker Healthcare Trust (EWHT) has played a vital role in ensuring caregivers have comprehensive, cost-effective healthcare benefits, which support the recruitment and retention of the dedicated professionals who care for some of Oregon's most vulnerable residents.

Good health insurance is so important to SEIU members and their families. It helps retain employees. It helps with job satisfaction and moral. Not having to worry about medication or food is a big deal.

Continued funding for programs like EWHT is essential to maintaining a strong and sustainable long-term care workforce. Ongoing investment in the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust is an investment in Oregon's long-term care workforce, ensuring that we can continue to provide quality care to those who need it most. Since 2021, the EWHT has provided nearly 6,000 people like me with health coverage for ourselves and our families, please fund EWHT