

Submitter: Christopher Harris
On Behalf Of: Partnerships in Community Living
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505
Vote No on SB 1505:

Dear Chair Jama and Committee Members,

As a longstanding member of the Board of Directors for Partnerships in Community Living for over thirty-five years, I am well aware of the ongoing struggles to finance and maintain a commitment to the high standard of service and care for the more than 200 children, adults, and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities that PCL supports across the state. To do that, PCL employs more than 500 Direct Support Staff to deliver service in people's homes and workplaces and help them connect with their communities. (I am equally sure that the same struggles apply to the many similar not-for-profit service providers in Oregon.)

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB 1505. This bill does nothing to improve wages or the service that our Direct Support Professionals provide. If enacted, this bill would merely grant an unelected board of individuals unfettered and needless authority over employment practices that are already more than adequately regulated by the state. This bill will bring about no improvements, but would only divert much needed funds away from both the services delivered and those DSPs who provide the support and care, who are, as we are all well aware, themselves already seriously underfunded. Instead this bill would direct these much needed vital funds towards yet another unnecessary layer of totally redundant bureaucracy, which would in turn also impose the expense of additional administrative burdens on an already strained system.

I write to urge you to vote against the waste of vital funds required for this unnecessary, self-serving, bureaucratic nonsense. Please vote NO SB 1505.

Yours Sincerely,

Christopher Harris
Vice President of Board of Directors, Partnerships in Community Living.