

Submitter: Gina Roberts
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1591

Dear Committee,

I have been an RN for over 20 years and a foster care owner for 10 years. My caregivers and I love providing a nice home for our residents and consider them to be like family. Caregiving is one of the most physically and mentally challenging jobs a person can have. When you lose a resident it is often almost like losing your own grandpa or grandma. Owners and Caregivers deserve to be paid a reasonable wage. We work 12 and 24 hours/day. Unfortunately, with the costs of everything going up I can't keep up with wages and don't know if I can continue to do this with only 5 residents. I make just enough to get by each month and keep going. I had to cancel our health insurance this year, because it went up over 20% Also, when someone passes I often have to pay a month's resident rent to referral agencies to get a new resident, which puts me in the hole further. Having 6-7 residents would allow me to pay my caregivers better, keep my head above water when someone passes, get health and dental insurance again, pay for the new roof and upkeep the house needs ect.

In addition to the financial aspect we have seen a lot of issues with hospitals and nursing homes trying to discharge with no placements. I think it makes sense for Oregon to use the existing resources you have in care homes to help with this. I truly believe we can still provide a wonderful, safe home-like environment for our residents with the addition of up to two more residents. Thank you for your consideration.