

Adult Foster Care Providers

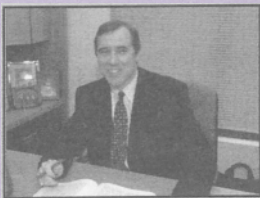
Adult foster care providers care for seniors, the disabled, and the mentally ill in their homes. Adult foster care workers are often sub-minimum wage workers who care for two to five clients.

This session, adult foster care workers organized, gaining a voice in the political process. On June 1, Governor Kulongoski signed the Executive Order (EO) recognizing their right to form a union. But we needed to pass a bill to make sure that the next Governor couldn't overturn the Executive Order. In response, adult foster care workers came to the capitol, wrote letters, made phone calls, and lobbied their legislators to pass a bill that would permanently secure their right to bargain collectively.

The Governor and legislative leadership bolstered their strong record of supporting the right-to-organize and came through big in the end for adult foster care providers. House Speaker Jeff Merkley changed the timeline and kept the legislature in session an extra day in order to pass this bill this session for our members.

There is still work to be done. Oregon's budget was decided before adult foster care providers were able to get involved. As a result, providers are currently slated to get just a 2.1% raise over the course of two years. This February adult foster care providers will be back to fight for funding for their first contract.

Walking a Day in Our Shoes



Jeff Merkley

When politicians get first hand experience of working family's lives, it makes a difference. House Speaker Jeff Merkley went on an organizing drive and visited the home of child care workers, urging them to join the union. He got first hand experience of the struggles that workers and working families face. He went back to the Capitol and made child care and adult foster care workers' right to organize a top priority. He also was a strong advocate for card check for public employees.