

Career Opportunities for Homecare Workers

With the roll-out of the training program we negotiated in this contract, there will be opportunities for a select number of homecare workers to compete for training assistant positions throughout the state. The Homecare Commission will begin providing training in January 2006 on communication skills, health and safety and other skill areas that improve quality of care.

Training assistants will be required to submit an application and go through a competitive selection process with the Homecare Commission. These will be part time positions in addition to your

current position as a homecare worker. Training assistants work on an "as needed" basis throughout the state and will go through extensive "train the trainer" classes. Some responsibilities will include providing assistance to the trainer in setting up the training sites, helping with registration and classroom activities.

If you are interested in applying for a position as a training assistant, please call your organizer for an application. (See "Call your Organizer" on page 2).



Training classes held in Salem

Waldon Cast Vote to Cut Medicaid Budget Give Tax Cuts to the Wealthy

Shame on Congressman Greg Waldon. On December 8, 2005, Congressman Waldon helped pass \$56 billion dollars in tax cuts for America's most wealthy. On November 18th, he voted to pass a \$50 billion package of spending cuts that will affect Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities, food assistance for low income families, and other programs designed to help the working poor. Walden appears to be the only member of Oregon's Congressional Delegation willing to vote for food stamp cuts.

Over 400 homecare workers and their clients wrote personal letters to Congress begging them to support Medicaid and not cut funding for services that literally mean the difference between life and death. Congressman Waldon needs to be held accountable for his vote. And we need to remember how he voted when he is up for re-election.

Here's what some said:

"Please save Medicaid from cuts. I am a widow who needs a caregiver full-time. If I lose my caregiver, I won't be able to stay in my own home or receive the medications I need."

"I contracted polio when I was two. In spite of serious complications and ongoing health problems, I worked for close to 30 years. Now my hands are almost useless and without my homecare worker, I would be nearly helpless. I don't want to live in an institution. Please don't cut Medicaid."

"I am an 81 year old and I don't know what will happen to me if I don't have Medicaid. I need my worker to be here 3 times a week, really more, but I have to make do. She is the sweetest, most thoughtful worker. She keeps me from going into a nursing home."

"I can't tell you how upset I am with the proposal to cut social services. Stop it! The poor cannot give anymore."

"I am a caregiver. Bless us one and all who can do for ourselves. Bless them who need care. We need to take care of the populace that are this close to be homeless or in a nursing home."