

Submitter: brett Bonin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Brett Bonin
Salem, OR, 97304
3-12-25

Representative Dacia Grayber
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Grayber,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3838, which threatens the stability and affordability of community-based care for Oregon's seniors. While I support efforts to improve wages and working conditions for caregivers, HB 3838 imposes excessive government control that will ultimately harm those it aims to help—our senior citizens and the care providers they rely upon.

HB 3838 establishes a Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board with broad authority over wages, benefits, staffing schedules, and working conditions. This one-size-fits-all approach disregards the financial realities of providers, particularly nonprofit organizations, and will significantly drive up costs for seniors who pay out-of-pocket for their care. Many seniors are already struggling to afford housing and healthcare, and the additional cost burden imposed by this bill could force them out of the care they need.

Furthermore, HB 3838 does not differentiate between Medicaid-funded and private-pay providers, requiring all organizations to comply with state-imposed wage mandates. This overreach will destabilize retirement communities and long-term care facilities, many of which are already facing financial challenges due to inflation and workforce shortages. The regulatory confusion created by another oversight body will only add unnecessary administrative burdens while failing to address the root causes of workforce shortages in the senior care industry.

Oregon is experiencing a growing demand for retirement communities due to an aging population and increased life expectancy. However, the availability of affordable and high-quality retirement homes is declining due to financial and regulatory constraints. HB 3838 will exacerbate this crisis by discouraging new developments and forcing existing facilities to close or reduce services due to unsustainable cost increases. Instead of fostering growth in this crucial sector, the bill imposes burdens that will make it even harder for seniors to find appropriate care and housing options.

At a time when Oregon should be working to expand access to high-quality senior care, HB 3838 will have the opposite effect. It risks facility closures, increases costs

for families, and limits the ability of care providers to make workforce decisions based on the needs of their residents. I urge you to vote NO on HB 3838 and work toward solutions that support both caregivers and the seniors they serve without jeopardizing access to care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Bonin