

Submitter: Larry Williams
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Munoz, Members of the Committee,

I encourage your support for this bill. My personal experience is with regard to Personal Support Workers. Our youngest child has been approved for a Personal Support Worker under a Medicaid reimbursed program, but we have not been able to utilize these resources over the last two years, because the only workers we can find who are qualified to do the work and keep our child safe would like (and deserve) somewhere between \$25/hour and \$30/hour, while my understanding is that Medicaid reimburses at closer to \$20/hour. We also experience a general lack of qualified applicants who serve East Multnomah County. The combination of underpaid work and lack of trained workers in many parts of our state are likely related and put financial strain and emotional stress on families who need help caring for a loved one at home.

For clients (like our child) who have a propensity to "wander" or "elope," we cannot take the risk of employing someone who is not adequately trained and qualified.

Larry S. Williams, MA
Gresham, OR