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Submitter: Christy Slack

On Behalf Of: New Day Enterprises, Inc. I/DD provider Union County Oregon.

Committee: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

As an employer that has been providing excellent service to adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in rural Eastern Oregon since 1972 and with over 30 years of personal service working for this agency and its program participants, I am strongly opposed to Oregon's HB 3838.

HB 3838 is yet another bureaucratic cumbersome attempt at more bloated regulations and oversight with no real solutions to the main issue that many of us have been trying to resolve for many years and that is compensatory rates for providers to recruit, retain and pay for the highly skilled staff that Oregon requires our DSPs to be. Another bureaucratic board is not the answer, just another cumbersome administration to navigate in our eyes.

Oregon is one of the most highly regulated states of an agency for people receiving HCBS services; some would argue the best in the nation. The licensing requirements are strict, efficient and effective already. The enormous administrative task alone to ensure all already lawful licensing requirements are met can be burdensome when the agency is required to be available to report and or be audited at any time to many governing parties such ODDS, OHA, SAIF, OSHA, SSA, OHCS. Etc.

The real solution is rate compensation for providers who do the actual work on the ground. These people love their jobs and the people they care for, however, cannot afford a living wage. This is just not right for the valuable work they do and especially for the people they care for. In addition, these employees have the right to privacy and not have their personal information taken from them. That is violation of any privacy right as I have ever seen and breaks confidentiality which we uphold to the highest of standards.

Conclusion

HB 3838 raises costs, reduces access to care, and adds unnecessary bureaucracy without improving wages for DSPs. Oregon should focus on direct workforce investments rather than creating a redundant regulatory body that will only complicate an already strained system.

The most effective way to support this workforce is to fund DSP wage increases directly, not to add another administrative hurdle that benefits interest groups rather than the people who rely on these essential services.

Please do not move HB 3838 forward. Thank you.

Christy Slack
Executive Director
New Day Enterprises