

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB3838

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Committee: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Munoz, Members of the Committee,

I am the President and CEO of Witco, Inc., a nonprofit agency providing comprehensive rehabilitation services in rural Eastern Oregon. Witco, Inc. was founded in 1974 and has provided these life-changing services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through rain or shine, snow, wildfires, and even Covid, Witco remained committed to providing life changing services to Oregonians with disabilities. Today, I am writing to express my opposition to HB3838, which will create another onerous challenge to our ability to continue to provide these services.

Our most significant need is to ensure resources are available to support our hard working Direct Support Professionals. HB3838 does not ensure wage increases for Direct Support Professionals, instead, it creates another level of bureaucracy on an already heavily regulated system. A system already experiencing uncertainty and potential negative fiscal impact at the Federal level.

Some of the reasons why Witco opposes this bill:

- The bill increases costs to Medicaid funded providers and consumers without any new funding.
- The bill establishes a powerful regulatory body with unprecedented legal authority.
- Oregon does not need another regulatory body. IDD services are already regulated by multiple agencies, including ODHS, OSHA, BOLI, OHA, CDDP's Brokerages and Ombudsman, and ODVR.
- The bill mandates employers to give employees' personal information to unions without their consent. This violates privacy rights and jeopardizes an employee's ability to control their Personal Identifiable Information.
- Most significantly, this bill does not invest resources in DSP wages but instead directs funding into regulatory expenses and union influence.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reject HB3838.