

Submitter: Dr. Paulette Schenck
On Behalf Of: Holladay Park Plaza
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3838
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Public Hearing – Oregon Legislative Assembly

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Members
of the House Committee Labor and Workplace Standards:

I am Paulette “Punkin” Schenck and the Resident Association President of Holladay Park Plaza, a Continuous Care Retirement Center (CCRC) in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in opposition HB 3838 for several reasons:

- In an already highly regulated health care environment, HB 3838 does not add any benefit but imposes unnecessary regulation and bureaucratic burdens that lessen rather than improve daily services at senior health care facilities.
- These bureaucratic hinderances hamper senior health care facilities to readily adapt to our current dynamic health care environment; thus, stymieing innovative practices rather than supporting them.
- HB 3838 is fiscally irresponsible. In the current atmosphere of uncertain federal and state funding, HB 3838 creates a 13-member board who are compensated (Section 3 of Workforce Board), taking money away from other needed state-supported services. This fiscal shackling then filters down to individual health care facilities and workers who would need to spend time verifying data to this board, should this bill pass, rather than spending time providing direct service to residents. These additional costs would then need to be passed to residents, many of whom are on fixed incomes.
- HB 3838 proposes to set wage standards, completely ignoring prevailing local wage and benefits rates. Here in Portland, no health care facility can hire qualified staff offering less than local compensation rates; hence, eliminating the need for a state board to impose this unnecessary regulation.
- Finally, having a state board that imposes work schedules on individual facilities is nonsensical. It ignores regulations that are already in place and negatively affects managers who best know how to meet the needs of their employees and residents.

For these reasons, I urge you to NOT support HB 3838.