

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

Dear Senator Girod,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1138, which would establish a Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board. While I understand the desire to protect the health and welfare of home and community-based services workers, I believe this bill would have negative consequences for both workers and those who receive services.

First, the bill would give the board broad authority to set minimum working standards, including compensation rates, work schedules, and training requirements. This would create a one-size-fits-all approach that would not be appropriate for all workers or all service providers. Some workers may prefer to have more flexibility in their work schedules, while others may need more training in certain areas. The bill would also require the board to conduct a biennial comprehensive review of the minimum standards, which would be a costly and time-consuming process.

Second, the bill would create a new layer of bureaucracy and regulation. This would make it more difficult for service providers to operate and would likely lead to higher costs for those who receive services. The bill would also require service providers to provide notice to workers of their rights under the bill, which would be an additional administrative burden.

Third, the bill would give the board the authority to investigate alleged violations of the minimum standards. This would give the board a great deal of power over service providers and could lead to abuse. The bill would also allow workers or worker organizations to file complaints with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, which could lead to costly and time-consuming litigation.

Finally, the bill would require employers to provide workers' information to the board or to a worker organization, including full names, telephone numbers, home addresses, personal mailing addresses, and electronic mail addresses. This provision is deeply concerning, as it would violate workers' privacy and could lead to harassment and intimidation. There is no legitimate reason why the board or a worker organization needs this information.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1138. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julie Arruda