

Testimony Opposed to House Bill 3838

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

I am David Hanson and am a resident of Holladay Park Plaza, a CCRC, in Portland and urge a NO vote on HB 3838. I am also the Vice President of the Residents Association for this year. My work experience was in the Pulp and Paper industry and when I read the proposed legislation this was similar to the document that comes with a labor contract. I have also learned that this is a bill supported by the SEIU. The proposed bill would have a government board taking control of wages, healthcare benefits, vacation benefits, retirement benefits, sick leave and staffing and essentially have the ability to impose a contract onto care facilities.

The only check that I could see was looking at how this would impact state budgets. Because of all the areas that this bill would impact at the place where I live the worry is for the costs to the residents as well as the way that the facility can respond to the needs of the residents. In the community care there is already the licensing and inspections from the State. If there are changes that need to be addressed to these inspected areas they should be addressed there.

We currently have minimum wage laws in Oregon. This type of bill would promote increased wages for workers. In the case of where I live this would then lead to salary compression which then leads to increased fees because of the need to equalize pay and other benefits through the organization. With the current system, wages need to be competitive to attract and retain workers in that geographic area. This can be managed to make the system equalized since an outside force changing wages would not only affect the direct care workers but the workers in maintenance, dining and around the organization.

Being fair to both workers and trying to also control costs to the residents is a balance and an important one. Before moving to Portland, I volunteered at a community feeding program. It turned out that a number of the people who came to the feeding program were there after a spouse died due to the loss of the second Social Security payment. This vulnerable population is also one that may need to go into a care facility because that spouse is not longer there to help provide support that is needed.

For the reasons above I urge a NO vote on this measure.

Thank you for reading,

David Hanson