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Dear Members of Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3838, which I believe represents an important step forward in addressing the challenges of direct support professionals and the dire need of oversight to ensure proper care of the clients they serve.

As a resident of Oregon, I am deeply committed to the well-being of our community and the future of our state. Our healthcare, specifically mental health ratings, are abysmal. The passage of this bill would create such a meaningful change for the direct support professionals, as well as for the clients they support, making a tangible difference in the lives of Oregonians.

As a mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, I implore everyone here to consider the care they want for their family and friends. Do you want companies that aren't held accountable to a higher authority caring for your loved ones? I urge you to consider the importance of holding companies accountable for taking care of their clients, and their employees. I truly believe that anyone opposing this bill does not have the best interest of their clients, or employees at heart. Take time to consider the opposition. Are they DSP's or clients here that are opposing, or is the opposition stocked with management, owners and CEO's that want their pockets lined while providing the bare minimum to their employees and clients? I'm fairly certain I know the answer to this question, but I hope that you can dig deep into realizing what that really means. Why would a company not want themselves and others to be held accountable for caring for their clients and bettering the lives of their employees? The answer to that is clear.

I've worked for a non-profit in Corvallis as a DSP in mental health. When I stood up to the neglect and abuse that were occurring within the home, I was retaliated against and discouraged from reporting abuse. When I reported the abuse (and subsequently left the company as I was given no choice), nothing was done by adult protective services, even more importantly, nothing was done by the company. I've seen firsthand the treatment of DSP's and the lack of care from management when the clients are not cared for appropriately. This must change. The days of companies getting away with the bare minimum must come to an end.

House Bill 3838 would steer Oregon toward better. Better care of clients who need help, and better work environments for the people who care for them. In turn, this would draw in higher quality employees to fill these incredibly essential roles.

As a future nurse, currently enrolled in school and a previous caregiver in dementia care, my heart lies with providing the best possible care for anyone I encounter. I hope that Oregon can look forward to doing the same.

I urge you to prioritize the passage of this important legislation, and I hope that you will consider its long-term positive impact on Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am confident that with your leadership, Oregon can continue to lead by example and create a brighter future for all its citizens.

Sincerely,
Brandi Wachsmuth

