

## **Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 3838**

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Good afternoon, Chair Grayber, and Members of the Committee,

Our daughter, Emily, has received support from DSPs and PSWs for over 20 years. I am deeply concerned about this bill that creates an unmonitored bureaucracy that pulls money away from where it is truly needed: wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

I oppose HB 3838 because we already have extensive oversight and quality systems in place. When I read through the "Duties of the Board" these duties already have existing requirements and oversight. This bill adds a costly, unnecessary, and duplicative layer of oversight while doing nothing to fix the biggest problem we face: workforce shortages due to low wages. I strongly question the motive behind this bill when the duties outlined are already being met, thereby asking me, the taxpayer, to pay twice to meet requirements already being monitored while using fearmongering to waste time and money.

Emily lives in her own home and relies on daily assistance to live her life on her terms. That only works because of her DSPs, but keeping those DSPs is becoming harder and harder. As a parent, I rely on you to keep her best interest at heart, not the best interest of an unelected and unnecessary board. I ask you to be laser-focused on what creates quality services for Emily and quality of life for her DSPs - fund wages.

And now, on top of this, families like mine are facing an unbearable level of uncertainty. Since January, we have been forced to shift our attention to the federal landscape, anxiously tracking discussions about potential Medicaid cuts. The thought of what those cuts could mean for our children is already overwhelming. Now, we are also expected to fight against the creation of an unnecessary Board that would further drain limited resources away from the people who need them most. The idea that funds intended to stabilize DSP wages could instead be funneled into this board is beyond frustrating, it is devastating. We cannot afford to divide our focus between these competing threats. We need you to prioritize what truly matters: stabilizing the wages for our DSP workforce.

Thank you.