

Submitter: Nathan Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Nathan Collins, and I'm an assistant manager with Umpqua Homes in Roseburg. Before this role, I was a DSP for four years, both in Nebraska and Oregon. I loved working as a DSP, especially providing person-centered care specific to the individual's interests and needs.

As often heard by teachers and first responders, I, as a DSP, found it challenging to support my family on a DSP wage. Thankfully, due to hard work and dedication, I was promoted to management, which resulted in a much-needed pay increase. I have come to enjoy my management work, but what about the hundreds of DSPs who would love what they do and prefer to offer direct care but struggle to pay bills? Do we want them to be pushed into other roles or to leave to work in another field? Absolutely not.

After reading this bill, I don't see how it addresses the greatest need in this field, which is funding to allow DSPs who love caring for the day-to-day needs of the people we support to earn a wage that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families and live their best lives as they support individuals to do the same.

There are many valid reasons why this unelected board is not the answer DSPs need, but I would state that when this bill gets specific, such as DSPs "serving but not preparing meals," the disconnect is concerning. Some of my fondest memories of caregiving involve preparing meals with the assistance of the people we support.

In conclusion, please oppose HB 3838.