

Submitter: Terri Silvis
On Behalf Of: Horizon Project Inc.
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards members,

On behalf of Horizon Project, a primary provider of IDD services in rural eastern Oregon, I am writing in opposition to proposed bill, HB 3838. This is a bill that introduces additional, confusing bureaucracy to an already highly regulated environment. HB 3838 will lead to higher costs that are not supported by funding and that result in no discernible benefit to people with disabilities or the staff that support them. Specific concerns include, but are not limited to:

- ? Failure to recognize the unique nature of ODDS services, which are complex and already highly monitored and regulated
- ? Creation of a new state bureaucracy, which is redundant and overly complex
- ? Results in increased costs and reduced access to services, diverting resources away from Direct Supports and harming the end user -- the individual with IDD
- ? Appears to be a breach of employee confidentiality
- ? Offers an unelected board with no checks and balances
- ? Does not guarantee funding for new standards (which could increase over time) and thus likely resulting in an unfunded mandate for providers who are already working with limited budgets
- ? Lack of representation from key stakeholders like providers, families and service recipients -- those who know the work and needs best

Summarily, HB 3838 raises costs, reduces access to care, and adds unnecessary bureaucracy without improving wages for direct care personnel. Oregon should focus on workforce investments rather than creating a redundant regulatory body that will only complicate an already strained system.

The most effective way to support this workforce is to fund wage increases for people who support people living with IDD, not to add another administrative hurdle that benefits interest groups rather than the people who rely on these essential services. Please do not move this bill forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terri H. Silvis, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Horizon Project