

Submitter: Kylie Steele
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 3838 to establish a Workforce Standards Board in the Long-term Care Industry.

Care worker's have been an essential support during my grandparent's aging process and I cannot imagine where my family would be without them! Not only are care workers essential workers, but they help ease the burden and fatigue that so often accompanies caregiving for family members. Please establish a workforce standards board so that these wonderful humans are paid tremendously for the tremendous work they do.

The care industry is in crisis, with underpaid, overworked care workers lacking basic protections. This puts both workers and vulnerable Oregonians at risk. HB 3838 offers a proven solution: a Workforce Standards Board to improve wages, working conditions, and care quality.

HB 3838 is a cost-effective approach. A Workforce Standards Board will ensure fair wages, benefits, and training, reducing long-term costs and improving care outcomes.

This bill uplifts many of the most vulnerable Oregonians, as care workers are disproportionately women, people of color, and immigrants, and have long been denied fair wages and protections. HB 3838 is a step toward correcting this and ensuring dignity and respect for care workers.

I urge you to support HB 3838 and stand with the workers who keep our care system running.

Sincerely,
Kylie Steele
Milwaukie, OR