

Submitter: Twila Jacobsen

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,

Please vote YES on HB 3838 to establish a Workforce Standards Board in the Home and Community-Based Care Industry.

Like many people, my Father was in a nursing home due to memory loss and dementia. He fell at home while living alone, and that led to his need for 24/7 care. It was not unusual to see him needing assistance and unable to receive it, as there were not enough workers to help all the residents. Yet when they were with him, he was so much happier and they were very good to him.

Home and community-based care workers play vital roles in their clients' lives, providing essential medical and personal care services to individuals who need ongoing assistance with daily activities, encompassing both physical and social support.

Yet these workers are largely overworked, underrecognized, and underpaid.

Care workers, who are 80% women and predominantly people of color, face severe economic hardship due to meager wages. Half of care workers must rely on public assistance, and 41% live near poverty despite many positions being funded by public dollars.

While Oregon urgently needs 65,000 more care providers by 2030, current conditions make it one of the hardest positions to fill and retain workers.

HB 3838 will help care workers have a voice in setting industry standards, access to fair wages and safe conditions, and protection from retaliation.

Please vote yes on HB 3838 and stand with the workers who keep our care system running.

Sincerely,
Twila Jacobsen
Eugene, OR