

Submitter: Kelly Thran
On Behalf Of: Community Services Inc
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair Grayber, vice Chairs Elmer and Munoz and members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

My name is Kelly Thran, I am the CEO of Community Services, Incorporated (CSI) and privileged to be a sister to three adults who experience developmental disabilities. CSI is a nonprofit organization supporting people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in residential settings. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3838-the proposal to establish a Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board.

While I have a keen personal and professional interest in strengthening the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) workforce, House Bill 3838 does not address the fundamental issue: ensuring wage increases for Direct Support Professionals (DSP). HB 3838 would increase administrative burdens and regulations, in an already heavily regulated system and only diverts essential resources from the workforce. Additionally, HB 3838 creates redundant systems. Agencies that provide HCBS services are monitored and held accountable to the standards of multiple agencies, including ODHS, OSHA, BOLI, OHA and Ombudsmen.

The solution to the HCBS workforce challenge is to directly invest in wages. The legislature commissioned a wage and rate study that identified a \$530 million funding gap for community providers. The most pressing need is not new regulations but direct investment in DSP wages. Please vote no on this bill and direct the resources to fund the study that identifies the real need.

With Gratitude,
Kelly Thran