

Submitter:	Denis Sieben
On Behalf Of:	Clubhouse Foster - Adult Foster Home
Committee:	House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3838

I strongly oppose HB 3838. As longtime providers and caregivers operating in Bend, Oregon. This bill will further erode the care that we provide to our residents by creating unnecessary oversight. There are several agencies already involved in overseeing the care we provide to our clients ensuring the safety, health and overall well being of those being cared for. As a small business owner, a provider and a caregiver, there is NO one size fits all solution addressing the pay and benefits for caregivers. We already provide competitive pay in Bend, Oregon (the most expensive city in Oregon) offering up to \$22-24 per hour and have created strategic ways to keep employees, in the form of employee housing or other benefits. Providing this has been a financial burden for our small business and has taken funds from the recreational activities we provide to our clients - we don't turn profits as a business, we hardly stay afloat. The real problem is the lack of funding from the state, Medicaid/Medicare which has already been identified through the Burns and Associates wage study, that is a big problem, the legislature needs to approve the funding that is so desperately needs if they want to improve conditions for caregivers. The state has identified the problem and shortage of funds - yet also wants US to improve the working conditions for those that we employ without funding us. Passing this bill will be detrimental to smaller group homes and foster homes like ours - there will be no one left to provide services if this bill passes. This bill creates an unnecessary committee - you know funding is the problem, so you must address the shortfall if you want to take care of caregivers and our most vulnerable population.