

Dear House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards members,

As the Executive Director of an agency that has provided services to adults who experience developmental disabilities, **I strongly oppose HB 3838**. It complicates an already complicated system with no tangible benefit to the people we serve or the employees providing those services. In fact, it appears to harm both groups by reducing access to care for those in services and increasing costs, making less funding available for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages.

Instead of adding another layer of expensive bureaucracy, please consider funding DSP wage increases directly. DSPs are the backbone of a strained system. **It is only because of their willingness to work for notoriously low wages that the state is able to operate its DD services system.**

I share the following concerns about HB 3838 with my colleagues in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability community:

- It fails to recognize the unique nature of ODDS services
- It creates a new state bureaucracy
- This would increase costs and reduces access to services
- It's redundant and overly complex
- It's a breach of employee confidentiality
- It's an unelected board with no checks and balances
- It circumvents the normal unionization process
- It diverts resources away from Direct Supports
- There's no guarantee funding for new standards
- These new standards can only increase and never be reduced
- There's a lack of representation from key stakeholders like providers, families and service recipients
- Curriculum and training standards should be set by experts

Please do not move this bill forward.

Very respectfully,



Allen R. Cress
Executive Director
Edwards Center, Inc.