

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

Good day, Chair Grayber and members of the committee. I am John Briggs speaking in opposition to this bill. I am a resident of Mirabella Portland which is a high-end continuing care retirement community. My question to the legislators supporting this bill is "Where is the money coming from to pay for this bill?"

The goal of Section 2 (a) clearly means requiring higher salaries for workers and higher staffing levels for all facilities. For my age group, I am at the top 1 percent in income. Mirabella managers looked at data from the implementation of similar bills in Colorado and other states. If care workers base salaries are raised, Oregon's pay equity law requires other peripheral positions including valets, maintenance, restaurant workers, and concierge personnel to be reviewed and made compatible. The Mirabella estimates that it will increase an individual Mirabella resident's fees by more than \$6,000 per year. I will be able to absorb the extra cost that will be passed on to me if this bill is implemented. However, I am the exception. Social Security says that half of the population aged 65 or older live in households that receive at least 50 percent of their income from Social Security. Of those, 25 percent rely on Social Security benefits for 90 percent or more of their income. These seniors are the people who will rely on government assistance when they are housed in the facilities covered by this bill. I know who these people are since I supplement the income of a cousin who lives in assisted living on Medicaid.

There is no chance that Federal Medicare and Medicaid funding will increase soon. It will be the State of Oregon which must produce the required additional funding. If this bill passes without additional funding, many facilities will go bankrupt and close with more homeless elderly on the street. If you kick the funding issue to the future, the legislature will be scrambling to solve a health care crisis. Don't pass this bill without adding funding