

Submitter: Jamie Daugherty
On Behalf Of: Oregon Assoc for Home Care
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Munoz and members of the committee:

For the record, I am Jamie Daughtery, President of the Oregon Association for Home Care. We represent skilled home health, hospice, and in-home care providers throughout the state of Oregon.

Home health care promotes better patient outcomes, is the preferred setting for medical care, provides access to the latest therapies and medical technology, and brings proven cost savings.

OAHC opposes HB 3838 as it will negatively impact the services we provide, to the Oregonians we care for who depend on home and community-based services (HCBS). During this time of federal uncertainty, we respectfully ask the legislature to focus on maintaining and expanding direct services, rather than creating additional personnel needs with ill-defined goals. If Medicaid funding is cut at the federal level, we must preserve funds for direct services, not for staffing boards.

We know from our member organizations that similar legislation passed in other states has not produced better outcomes for HCBS recipients. Instead, workforce boards have added confusing bureaucracy and regulation to Medicaid systems. The proposed board in Oregon will have unprecedented legal authority, giving immense power to an unelected board of interest groups.

We are particularly concerned for the privacy of our employees, who, under this legislation will be forced to turn over their contact information. With a sizeable percentage of the workforce comprised of minority women, it also puts the workforce at risk of being unfairly targeted to determine immigration status. To say nothing of individuals who have experienced domestic violence and have other reasons to keep their names off publicly available lists.

If implemented, our members are concerned about the ability to do business in Oregon. This comes at a time when we desperately need more access to care, especially for seniors and people with disabilities on fixed incomes and for those living in rural communities.

We respectfully request your NO vote on this legislation.

Thank you again for your time.