

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

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Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 3838

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3838. As both a Service Team Coordinator in Children's Services and a mother of a disabled child, I see firsthand how Oregon's intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) system is struggling—not because of a lack of oversight, but because of a severe funding shortfall that prevents Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) from earning a livable wage. This bill would only add unnecessary bureaucracy while failing to address the real issue: the urgent need for increased DSP wages.

Oregon's I/DD system is already highly regulated, with existing oversight mechanisms ensuring service quality. Creating another board will do nothing to resolve the crisis we face. The most significant challenge is the \$558 million funding gap that directly impacts DSP retention and recruitment. Families like mine—and the many I serve—depend on a stable, well-compensated workforce to provide continuity of care. Without meaningful wage increases, high DSP turnover will continue to disrupt the lives of individuals with disabilities, leaving them vulnerable and underserved.

Additionally, Medicaid funding is already strained, and diverting resources to a redundant oversight board risks further financial instability for families who rely on DSPs for essential support. Instead of spending money on more administrative layers, we need to ensure that DSPs are paid fairly so they can remain in their critical roles, providing care to those who need it most.

I urge you to reject HB 3838 and instead focus on real solutions—investing in DSP wages to stabilize and strengthen the workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda M Ham