

Submitter: Tiffani Olsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

I have already submitted my written testimony but wanted to add a few points after being able to attend the hearing on 3/17/25.

It is more evident than ever that this bill is not the answer to the problems faced by the DSP and caregiver workforce! The problem to be solved is the reimbursement rates that providers receive. DD providers, assisted living facilities, foster care and many others can not all be lumped together. While we all serve people, the needs are different, the funding is different, the staffing requirements are different so therefore there could not be one workforce standards board.

The point I want to make sure to convey is that unions are great for specific sectors and I have seen that first hand. It was heart breaking to me to listen to the testimony of the staff that is trying to make ends meet and is in support of this bill but already works for a provider whose DSPs are represented by SEIU.

I was appalled to hear the standards this board would intend to set, as well as the pay. I heard the testimony of a person represented by this union and they stated that they received 8 hours of online training and then are out providing supports. I know the organization I work for has very high standards but our time in training for a new DSP is upward of 60 hours before they are directly supporting people we serve, and then there is a lot of shadowing long term staff for the comfort and benefit of all involved.

This is very clearly not the answer to the DSP workforce crisis but fully funded rate models would absolutely be going in the right direction.