Submitter: Habteab Yemane

On Behalf Of: Opposition to HB 3838 Impact on Adult Foster Home

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As an adult foster home provider in Oregon, I am writing to respectfully express strong opposition to House Bill 3838.

While the intention behind HB 3838 to improve workforce standards is appreciated, its implementation would have serious unintended consequences for adult foster homes. Specifically:

Increased Operating Costs: The mandated wage, benefits, and training requirements would significantly increase operational costs. Without an accompanying increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates, many small providers will struggle to stay open, threatening the availability of much-needed community-based care.

Loss of Provider Flexibility: Establishing a centralized board to set workforce rules would take away the flexibility small providers need to manage their homes effectively and meet the individual needs of residents.

Administrative Burden: Additional training mandates, certifications, and reporting requirements would impose heavy administrative workloads on providers, pulling valuable time and resources away from direct resident care.

Exacerbation of Workforce Shortages: New mandates could unintentionally worsen the already critical staffing shortage by making it harder to recruit and retain caregivers.

Employee Privacy Concerns: Requiring providers to share employee information with labor organizations raises privacy concerns and risks unwanted solicitation, potentially creating an uncomfortable work environment.

Adult foster homes are a vital part of Oregon's long-term care system, offering a personal, family-like setting that larger facilities cannot replicate. This bill would place an unsustainable burden on providers and could ultimately reduce care options for vulnerable populations across the state.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3838.

Thank you for your time and consideration