

## **Sarah Swensen Testimony for Rules Committee on 4/28/25**

Good morning, Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, and Pham, and Members of the Committee. My name is Sarah Swenson, and I am speaking to you as a parent and a constituent. Our daughter, Emily, has received support from Direct Support Professionals and Personal Support Workers for more than 20 years. I am deeply grateful for your time, and I want to thank you in advance for allowing me to speak directly and candidly. As a parent, I don't have the luxury of being political when it comes to protecting our child.

I strongly oppose House Bill 3838.

Families and people receiving services like Emily's depend on this workforce every single day. We *want* to retain good staff. We know exactly what keeps them: **fair wages** and **respect**, not more layers of disconnected bureaucracy.

This bill claims to protect families and people receiving services, yet it limits our voices to only two seats. There is no way these two seats can adequately represent the diverse families and individuals impacted by this Board.

Nearly everything this bill proposes already exists - minimum wage is already law, BOLI already enforces safe workplaces, training requirements are already required by OAR, and paid leave is already guaranteed.

Meanwhile, this bill comes with no funding, so really, it does nothing to improve the services my daughter relies on or to invest in the people who support her.

Families like mine are already bracing for devastating federal cuts to services for our children. Please don't give us one more thing to fear, watching limited resources siphoned off into bureaucracy rather than direct care.

If there are real problems with enforcement or consistency, let's fix them where they originate, within the agencies already responsible, rather than creating an expensive, redundant board.

I absolutely agree that some of the people who do this work are not being treated well, and those situations are heartbreaking. However, the solution lies in real enforcement and accountability, not creating more disconnected bureaucracy that diverts dollars away from direct care and from good providers who are doing it right.

Thank you for your time and your service. I respectfully request that you oppose HB 3838.