

Submitter: Devin Jorgenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 3838 to establish a Workforce Standards Board in the Long-term Care Industry.

The care industry is in crisis, with underpaid, overworked care workers lacking basic protections. This puts both workers and vulnerable Oregonians at risk. HB 3838 offers a proven solution: a Workforce Standards Board to improve wages, working conditions, and care quality.

I have worked in mental health care, older adults suffering from dementia, teenagers experiencing houselessness, and people struggling with substance abuse (just to name a few) for the past 8 years. I implore you to do whatever you can to reduce the negative impact that all these rapid changes are affecting real human beings and their families.

HB 3838 is a cost-effective approach. A Workforce Standards Board will ensure fair wages, benefits, and training, reducing long-term costs and improving care outcomes. Thank you for all the work you do as well!

This bill uplifts many of the most vulnerable Oregonians, as care workers are disproportionately women, people of color, and immigrants, and have long been denied fair wages and protections. HB 3838 is a step toward correcting this and ensuring dignity and respect for care workers.

I urge you to support HB 3838 and stand with the workers who keep our care system running.

Sincerely,
Devin Jorgenson
Portland, OR