

April 25, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 3838. The bill presents several concerns that warrant serious consideration. Fierce opposition from the states home and community-based service providers should be a clear indication that the right decision is to pause your efforts and look for a better way to make the impact you are looking for.

This bill will hinder the efficiency of home and community-based services. This bill will impose significant financial impacts on the residents we serve. The board's mandates will detract from the primary goal of providing timely and effective care to our most vulnerable populations.

The costs associated with the proposed standards could be prohibitive, potentially leading to additional closures or reduced service capacity. This would negatively impact the availability of care options for those who depend on these services. We need more growth to meet the demand, not closures. We need more direct care providers to care for the growing need.

Rather than pushing this bill forward, the committee needs to kill this bill and focus their efforts elsewhere, such as in helping us attract and train more direct care workers into the market. Our number one greatest challenge is not providing market competitive wages, it is not providing competitive benefits, it is finding staff to begin with; there simply aren't enough direct care workers nationwide. Please put your efforts there, a place that will make a lasting impact on the residents in our community and the people we serve. Please help the providers out there that have no choice at times but to hire contract workers at a rate that is rapidly pushing them closer and closer to closing their doors or has no choice but to pass on those extreme costs to their residents.

While this bill aims to improve workforce standards, the drawbacks make it a flawed approach with serious, long-lasting implications. I strongly encourage you to vote NO on HB3838 to ensure that our home and community-based services remain efficient, stable, and accessible to all who need them.

Ryan Miller

President and CEO, Terwilliger Plaza