

Submitter: Allison Stark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair Bowman and members of the committee. My name is Allison Stark and I am the CEO of Albertina Kerr. We provide youth mental health services and residential, employment and day supports for youth and adults with developmental disabilities.

I am here today to share my opposition to HB 3838 or the workforce standards board. HB 3838 assumes that the regulatory environment is consistent across at least 12 different service models including long term care for older adults, services for people with physical disabilities, those with mental health support and for our services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The idea that a 10 member board could possibly represent and understand the complexity of at least 5 state departments or agencies is not possible, as well as the federal requirements in place for this services.

More importantly, this board reduces this complex regulatory environment that balances client needs, provider requirements and worker standards and instead focuses solely on the needs of workers. The idea that we can take a worker standards and look at the regulations surrounding them in a vacuum is problematic and potentially dangerous.

I have spent the entire legislative session advocating for better wages for our workers based on a wage and rate study ordered by the legislature 2 years ago. We don't need a workforce standards board to understand that we need to invest in wages for our staff. This is a proven way to reduce turnover and increase worker satisfaction.

Please opposed HB 3838.

Sincerely,  
Allison Stark