

April 28, 2025

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 3838

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I have spent over a decade working in healthcare starting as a CNA in skilled nursing, later becoming a nurse, and for the past six years serving in community leadership roles in senior living. In addition, I serve as a member of the Oregon Long Term Care Administrators Board.

Over the years, I have seen how truly life-changing this work is not just for the residents, but for those of us who are privileged to serve them. This industry is built on relationships, trust, and being part of someone's home and daily life.

When I worked in skilled nursing, I experienced firsthand how certain regulations, though well-intentioned, shifted the focus from people to paperwork. The work became more about checking boxes than building meaningful connections. I am concerned that HB 3838 would push senior living down that same path, taking away the flexibility and relational care that make it unique.

More personally, I recently helped my grandmother through a hospital stay and a skilled nursing rehab placement. I saw firsthand how a system overloaded with regulations and lacking real employee engagement became impersonal and broken. It wasn't about relationships anymore it was just about getting the work done. That is not what senior living should ever become.

In my current role as an Executive Director, I work every day with my team to create a community where care staff are supported, residents are known personally, and families trust that their loved ones are truly cared for. Our organization partners with our team members to build relationships, not micromanage them. This is how we keep costs manageable for families and maintain a high quality of life for residents: by trusting and investing in our people.

The cost impacts of HB 3838 are real. Residents and families are already struggling to afford care. Further regulation will only increase costs and delay access to needed services, pushing more people out of options altogether.

I continue to work in senior living because I believe deeply in this mission and in serving our seniors. They deserve care that honors who they are, not care that is bogged down in bureaucracy.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3838. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dhrasti Patel
Executive Director, The Springs at Tanasbourne

