



April 28, 2025

To: Representative Bowman, Chair, and House Committee on Rules

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: HB 3838 with Dash 3 (Oppose)

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

The purpose of this testimony is to reiterate the opposition of the Oregon Developmental Disability Coalition (“DD Coalition”) to House Bill 3838 with or without the Dash-3 amendment. The primary concerns the DD Coalition previously raised remain unchanged. Those include (1) the lack of representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who receive services; (2) the failure to distinguish IDD-specific needs; and (3) the duplicative nature of the Board with other agency and advisory bodies with a proven track record of engaging directly with people with IDD.

Every person, regardless of ability, deserves a say in the decisions that shape their future. As discussed in the Coalition’s previous testimony, the proposed HCBS Workforce Standards Board lacks representation from communities impacted by its decisions. The Dash-3 amendment does nothing to address the lack of representation for individuals with IDD on the Board. As introduced, the bill specified that only two seats would be designated for members who “represent the interests” of those receiving services, and the Dash-3 amendment does not change that total. Two seats are insufficient to reflect the diverse experiences and priorities of people with disabilities, and the law does not even specify what it means to “represent the interests.” In other words, there is no guarantee that any member of the Board will be a person with a disability, much less a person with IDD. Would a parent, a case worker, or agency official be among those who are assumed to “represent” their interests? When policies that impact IDD services and workers are developed without input from self-advocates with lived experience receiving those services, the outcomes are often detrimental.



The proposed HCBS Workforce Standards Board would make no distinction between developmental disability services and other disability-related services. The Dash-3 amendment makes only a minimal effort to distinguish between different types of services, and the overarching direction of the Board and its structure is still to treat all services and settings the same. While the amendment provides some discretion to develop standards that may be “tailored” to specific worker types or care settings, it is not required and unlikely to be the case given the aforementioned lack of representativeness on the Board.

The proposed amendment does not address the fact that the Board duplicates the work of other existing agencies and advisory bodies such as DHS, the ODDS Vision Advisory Committee, the DD Coalition, or the Homecare Commission. It remains a problematic delegation of regulatory authority by the legislature that raises, among other things, issues when proposed mandates lead to new agency budgetary implications mid-cycle. More importantly, we already have the information needed to make immediate and necessary changes to things like Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages based on the recent legislatively-mandated rate and wage study. The establishment of the Board would most likely delay those critical investments in DSP wages until the year 2030 at the earliest, creating further instability and inability to recruit a skilled workforce for many more years to come. Those delays would negatively impact thousands of Oregonians with IDD and the workers who support them.

For those reasons, despite proposed changes to House Bill 3838, the DD Coalition remains strongly opposed. Please refer to the Coalition’s original testimony for further information.¹

¹ Testimony of Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition in Opposition to HB 3838 (March 17, 2025): <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/158517>