

Submitter:	Simona Pocol
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3838

My name is Simona Pocol RN, BSN, MSN. I have been a Registered Nurse for 20 years practicing in a variety of capacities as my nursing license has given me the privilege to do so. My experience consists of being a bedside nurse at Oregon Health Science University on the bone marrow transplant unit. I received my master's in nursing education with the focus in gerontology and then began teaching as a clinical faculty at Linfield School of Nursing. With my passion for the elderly and desire to provide quality care in the long-term care settings, I left the hospital and opened an Adult Care Home for complex medical clients with multiple comorbidities and very complex neurological needs, most specifically multiple sclerosis.

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 3838. The reason I am opposing this bill is because of the negative impact it will have on residents in my care. The increased demand for our small businesses that are already struggling to stay afloat will directly impact the employees that we have and the care we can provide to our residents.

Increasing wages does not necessarily mean an increase in quality care, this should not be the only metrics that are used to evaluate whether quality care is provided. In my master's program, I learned that Quality in long-term care can be measured using various metrics, including patient satisfaction, readmission rates, infection rates, and measures specific to long-term care facilities like the percentage of residents who spend most of their time in bed or a chair. In the many false testimonies that SEIU presented, they did not focus on any of these metrics for quality care. Their only measure of quality care was adequate Staffing and fair wages. I assure you that in our Adult Care Home settings we have a superior staffing ratio compared to any other long-term care facilities. This is often 5:1 or 5:2 Staffing ratio making our industry adequate and safe in our staffing. Our residents are getting superior care compared to other states nationwide and we take pride in the care that we provide to our resident in a home-like setting. The data does not lie, Oregon is consistently ranking in the top 10 states for providing quality in long term care settings!

How are we able to rank so high in providing quality care if we are not providing adequate staffing or competitive wages as SEIU claims? This is not our issue. Our issue is coming up with a collaborative approach to increasing Medicare rates so that we can continue to have competitive wages for our staff that do such hard work daily. I am currently taking care of five advanced neurological patients with multiple complex healthcare needs, and I employ some of the most amazing compassionate and educated caregivers. I have provided direct one-on-one training to all my staff, and I take pride in the level of excellent quality care that they provide. The complex medical needs contract that I am practicing under has stringent requirements that all

my staff have 10 hours of continuing education; half of the hours must be in person and half can be online. These must be renewed every single year with education topics specific to the population that we provide care for. We are already so tightly monitored by the Adult Care Home Program and have MCARs in place as checks and balance to ensure that we are within full compliance of the Adult Care Home Program and BLOI laws.

I do not need a committee to come and dictate how we operate our small businesses. Since I have a Medicaid Contract SEIU is supposed to be my representative and is supposed to voice my concerns. Since I have been an operator for well over 13 years, I have never once had SEIU reach out to me and ask me what my struggles or needs are in operating and Adult Care Home. Furthermore, there was absolutely no invitation to have my voice heard regarding the proposal. I am Absolutely appalled that they are speaking on my behalf and assuming that I am in favor of this