



House Committee on Rules

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chair- Drazan, Vice Chair Pham, and committee members.

Subject: Opposition to HB 3838 – Impact on Home and Community-Based Care Providers

On behalf of the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) and the businesses, organizations, and individuals we represent across Beaverton and Washington County, we respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3838.

We are deeply concerned about the proposal to shift wage and employment decision-making authority from the Legislature—our elected representatives—to an unelected regulatory board with broad authority to set industry standards. Such a move would diminish public accountability and remove critical oversight from a process with far-reaching economic implications.

The healthcare sector—particularly home and community-based services—is one of the most essential and sensitive components of any local economy. HB 3838 poses significant risks to the viability of providers, especially small businesses and nonprofit organizations that already operate with narrow margins. The establishment of a Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board would almost certainly increase operating costs for Medicaid-funded providers and the individuals they serve, without offering a clear mechanism for additional reimbursement or funding support. Many providers are already paying wages above current reimbursement rates, and this bill would further strain their financial sustainability.

Moreover, the bill introduces additional layers of bureaucracy into an already highly regulated field. Oregon's direct care providers are currently overseen by multiple agencies, including ODHS, OSHA, BOLI, OHA, and CDDPs. Creating a new, unelected board risks duplicating efforts, increasing administrative burdens, and undermining the authority of existing regulatory agencies.

We believe HB 3838 jeopardizes the stability of an essential healthcare sector and the well-being of the individuals who rely on these services. Its passage could accelerate the closure of existing providers, discourage the formation of new ones, and ultimately reduce access to care at a time when these services are more critical than ever.

For the protection of home and community-based care providers, their employees, and the vulnerable citizens they support, we respectfully request your "no" vote on HB 3838.

Respectfully submitted,

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