

Submitter: Doris Maran  
On Behalf Of: Premier Elder Care  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about House Bill 3838. I am strongly opposed to this legislation, as it would create an unelected Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board—shifting critical decision-making power away from the legislature and placing it in the hands of an appointed body. This change circumvents the democratic process and introduces far-reaching mandates without meaningful input from those directly affected.

HB 3838 mirrors aspects of collective bargaining, yet does so without the consent or involvement of the very workforce it claims to support. Furthermore, the bill proposes state-mandated wages and benefits that could dramatically raise operating costs for small care providers such as adult foster homes—many of which are already struggling to stay afloat.

Oregon's care system is already under immense pressure. Small providers are closing at an alarming rate due to staffing shortages, escalating expenses, and regulatory burdens. Adding another layer of oversight—without offering the financial or structural support necessary to adapt—will only make matters worse. If enacted, HB 3838 could reduce access to essential care and jeopardize the quality of services for those who need them most.

I respectfully urge you to consider the serious implications this bill may have for the viability of small care homes and the overall stability of Oregon's long-term care system. We need targeted support—not more bureaucracy.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.