

Submitter: Alan Christopher
On Behalf Of:
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 regarding House Bill 3838. I strongly oppose this legislation because it establishes an unelected Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board, which removes key decision-making authority from the legislature and places it in the hands of an appointed body. This shift not only bypasses the democratic process but also imposes sweeping mandates without adequate input from those directly impacted.

HB 3838 introduces regulations that resemble collective bargaining, yet it does so without the consent or participation of the workforce it claims to represent. Additionally, the bill proposes state-imposed wage and benefit standards that could significantly increase operational costs for small providers like adult foster homes—many of which are already operating on the edge of sustainability.

Oregon's care system is in a fragile state. Small-scale providers are closing at an alarming rate due to staffing shortages, rising costs, and administrative burdens. This bill risks worsening that trend by adding more regulatory complexity without offering practical, financial, or structural support. If passed, HB 3838 could reduce access to care for vulnerable Oregonians and compromise the quality of services they depend on.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences this bill may have on the sustainability of small care homes and the broader healthcare landscape in Oregon. We need support, not more bureaucracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alan Christopher, RN Owner
Premier Elder Care