

Submitter: Flavius Rusnak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

I respectfully oppose HB 3838. While I fully support fair wages, quality training, and safe working conditions for care workers, this bill places an unsustainable administrative and financial burden on providers.

The creation of a centralized Workforce Standards Board removes flexibility from employers who are already regulated, inspected, and held accountable by existing agencies. The proposed mandates on wages, benefits, staffing levels, and reporting obligations—without guaranteed funding or increased Medicaid reimbursement—will force many small care homes to make difficult decisions, including limiting admissions or even closing their doors.

HB 3838 may unintentionally reduce access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas where residential care homes are a vital alternative to institutional settings. Instead of a one-size-fits-all mandate, we need solutions that support both our workforce and the sustainability of the care homes that serve Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider this bill and seek a more balanced approach that engages providers directly and ensures adequate funding before imposing new mandates.