

Submitter: Jennifer Thomas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838
Chair Bowman and members of the committee:

Please oppose HB3838-

HB 3838 proposes to create a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Workforce Standards Board. The DD Coalition opposed the bill for several reasons including:

Lack of representation for individuals with IDD (or any other disability) on the Board. It only has 2 of 13 seats set aside for people who "represent the interests" of people receiving services, which may or may not be persons with disabilities.

Duplication and unnecessary delegation of authority and work already being conducted by state agencies and advisory groups that actually do engage with the IDD community including the DD Coalition itself.
Say no to this bill and put the funds directly to wages.

Failure to distinguish between IDD services and other types of disability-related services, which signals that the needs of individuals with IDD will be poorly served by the Board.

The proposed "Dash-3" amendment minimally improves this by saying that standards "may" be tailored to particular categories of workers or settings, but that wording provides very little reassurance.