

Submitter: Cynthia McDaniel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838
To: Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Munoz, and Members of the House
Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Cynthia McDaniel MSN RN, CEO, Elderwise Inc

RE: Oppose HB 3838

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your passion and dedication to good policies and vulnerable individuals. As a nurse and a leader in the home and community-based care industry, I have significant concerns that HB 3838 will cost Oregonians more without delivering the intended benefits.

HB 3838 appears to empower an unregulated board to set wage, benefit, and training standards. This seems over-reaching and unnecessary. I have spent my entire career considering and responding to the challenges of caregiver retention and recruitment. Creating a workforce board is not the solution to these challenges.

Oregon already has a free training program for caregivers in Oregon Care Partners. While it would be great to study and propose career pathways, this should not be the responsibility of a workforce board. We should use and continue to develop what we already have and engage our education partners in this conversation.

I appreciate that workers should have a voice, however a workforce board is not the voice for them. Let's make a lasting difference by bringing in stakeholders, and especially stakeholders who work as caregivers in the long-term care industry, and create something innovative and responsive. This is what Oregon is known for.