

Submitter: Denis Sieben

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3838 and Oregon Senate Bill 1138. While I recognize that the bill may aim to address wage disparities for DSP's and the shortage we're seeing in our industry however I strongly believe the consequences of this bill will be devastating for many small businesses and caregivers like myself. As an Adult Foster Home provider and DSP worker, our small business can't and will not be able to pay and offer the benefits that could be requested by the board. We are simply under funded by Medicaid and Medicare and we have been for several years now. We have experienced unprecedented inflation over the past couple of years - especially on services and goods that adult foster homes need on a daily basis.

Unintended Financial Impact: This bill will literally be the death to adult foster homes, RTF's, RTH's and several smaller nonprofits across the entire state who also function as direct DSP workers. We will NOT be able to stay in business should this pass. This bill will further exacerbate our mental health crisis and I'm at a loss of words on how the union could craft such a bill that will have detrimental consequences for so many people.

Unnecessary Regulations: This bill creates another bureaucracy of oversight - we are regulated by several departments, OHA, ODDS, Medicare/Medicaid as well as the OLTCO. We do not need another board of oversight - it's highly problematic as it stands.

Impact on: This bill will NOT put more money in DSP's pockets. We already offer a highly competitive wage at \$22-\$24 per hour, with housing programs custom trailered for retention, we literally can't afford to pay more. Your latest wage study indicated the type of investment the state must make to fully fund the programs. This will have a trifecta of consequences, many current DSP's will lose their jobs due to small businesses closing, APD/IDD residents will have less choices if any choices because homes will be closing across the state and even more money will be needed to fix the problems that this bill creates, the providers who own the homes and employee the DSP's may not return to the workforce.

Lack of Evidence Supporting Effectiveness: This bill does not guarantee any rate increase for DSP's. This bill does not actually address the ratio of DSP's to our

residents of APD, IDD or AFH... which are all very different programs. There is very little evidence on why we need this bill, many claims made during open testimony sound like isolated claims where they were understaffed or the company simply doesn't pay enough. Many of us have shared with you what we do differently to retain DSP's and promote growth in this industry - imagine what we could do if you FULLY FUND our programs as noted in the wage study.

Alternative Solutions: This bill attempts to address disparity in DSP wages and care provided to our clients... however it's not relevant to many of us small business owners who are also DSP workers. You cannot standardize wages if there is a massive disparity between Medicaid and private pay clients. An independent wage rate study was conducted and you have the power to make the recommendation to fund the program(s) - that is the only solution to this problem.

I ask that you reconsider these bills and actually consider these concerns as you deliberate on HB 3838 & SB 1138. I believe that this bill could have serious, negative consequences for our most vulnerable population, DSP's, fellow citizens, businesses and local governments, and that a more carefully considered approach should be taken.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you vote against this bill.