

Submitter:

Benjamin Carmel

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3838

As a person with a developmental disability (DD), I oppose this legislation as it fails to provide any meaningful representation for people who actually are DD, and so I fully support the DD Coalition's opposition to this legislation. Sadly, it seems the sponsors here care more about the union that pushed this bill but don't care for the people actually served.

Let me add that it is shameful that this legislature has not increased OSIP payments for DD people in well over a decade. What is \$22 going to do for me today? This amount is supposed to cover the gap between SSI and services I need to live in my community. At the very least, this amount could be increased based on the CPI index. I am grateful for that payment, but the reality is this is near meaningless due to inflation, and this is the lowest payment of any West Coast state; both Washington and California supplement by hundreds a month. Guess what Congress is now going to rug pull services from us and because this \$22 is so low I can't even save for this crisis with Medicaid and Social Security that is coming. I'm going to end up homeless and Oregon really could do better by its DD population. We have no real safety net just extreme poverty. I've tried to get on housing lists for ten years and not a single time have I got lucky enough to be added to the waitlist for Section 8. We're sinking here and even worse many of our caregivers quit because the wages are too low. You guys really should tell DD kids that once they become adults the services become barebones and life becomes extremely difficult bordering on homelessness often. Instead of trying to ease my poverty, make my services better you all are making a board with no representation from the DD community. For shame!