

Submitter: Denise Pocol  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am a current full-time Caregiver in Multnomah County and I OPPOSE House Bill 3838.

As a caregiver, who is aspiring to open her own small Adult Care Home business, it is truly disappointing and discouraging to see the possibility of HB3838 move forward. What happened to allowing small business owners have autonomy of how they operate their business? What happened to acknowledging that the violations and issues a large corporation (facilities) may face are NOT ones small (Adult Care Homes) businesses do? Many of the statistics and examples provided in this Bill and by SEIU state "facilities" yet small Adult Care Homes who provide care for five residents, offering a 5:1 or 5:2 resident to caregiver ratio, and who are extremely underpaid by Medicaid, will be the ones NEGATIVELY affected. Base rates for a Medicaid paid residents is \$2,120 for small Adult Care Homes while larger facilities base rates are \$15,011, yet SEIU and HB3838 propose that all long-term care should be seen as one collective industry. How can that be with this large of pay discrepancy? Providers are already having difficulties meeting and maintaining current cost and overhead with the little funding provided by Medicaid. If HB3838 is not stopped, it will make it impossible for providers to keep their businesses opened, which in-turn will add to the already growing number of unemployed individuals in Oregon. It will cause many caregivers like me, who work in a small Adult Care Home setting to be unemployed. More importantly it will disrupt the lives of those relying on the care and services provided by small Adult Care Homes businesses.

Additionally, SEIU falsely claims that caregivers are underpaid, untrained and mistreated. I would argue that I am actually treated with respect, paid fairly and receive the proper training that empowers me to do my job with skill and compassion. Furthermore, I am pleased with the transparency and open-door policy my Provider provides during our annual reviews. During this time not only do we speak about pay but also various career paths I could take within this industry. Another false claim HB3838 proposed as well as SEIU, that there is very little to no support or guidance for career development currently taking place. I would like to stress that higher pay does NOT equate to better care. This is not a metric driven industry, this is an industry driven by compassion, care and love. We do this job because it's our calling - we strive to help our residents live full, enriched and dignified lives all within a safe, loving and family like environment. Do not let the false accusations and claims of SEIU be a representation for all caregivers nor for all providers. It is clear SEIU had

zero conversations with Adult Care Home caregivers & providers.

Lastly, we all share a common goal, to ensure our most vulnerable population is provided the opportunity to age in a safe, lovely and patient center care environment. Passing HB3838 will do the opposite. So, I urge and plead you to vote NO on this Bill and OPPOSE HB3838, it WILL destroy small current Adult Care Homes and the future long-term Care.

Thank you for your time,  
Denise Pocol  
Caregiver