

Submitter: Angelica Onofrei
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to HB 3838, as a licensed Adult Foster Home provider in Oregon. This bill, if enacted, would severely jeopardize my ability to continue providing care, and would have lasting negative impacts on the entire home and community-based care system.

Currently, I care for three Medicaid residents, two of whom exhibit severe behavioral challenges and require 1:1 care, particularly at night. I submitted Exception requests for additional caregiver hours in September 2023 and February 2025, and yet I have received no updates, approvals, or communication. It has been over eight months since the first submission, forcing me to shoulder the costs of three additional caregivers to maintain adequate care. These costs remain unreimbursed.

This is part of a wider crisis. I have a Level 3 care resident who is fully dependent in seven out of eight ADLs—yet the Medicaid reimbursement I receive is only \$2,398/month (the equivalent of a base rate plus one add-on). This amount grossly underrepresents the cost of care required for such a high-need resident.

The system is failing. The Exception process is overly complex and inconsistently processed, often mishandled by Medicaid staff who are themselves unfamiliar with the forms and procedures. These inefficiencies create devastating financial instability, and I have been told by several state contacts—including Lynette Ross, Trevin, and Jane-Ellen—that there is nothing they can do but "pass along" my concerns. Meanwhile, providers like myself are on the verge of closure, and our most vulnerable residents are at risk of eviction due to no fault of their own.

Jane-Ellen has publicly stated that she wishes to reform the system, but also advocates against homes having more than five residents—despite the fact that having more residents would actually support the staffing model necessary to provide quality care. Her conflicting messaging exemplifies the lack of cohesive support and understanding for what it truly takes to operate an adult care home today.

Before any new legislation like HB 3838 is passed, the State of Oregon must address the broken Medicaid infrastructure. This includes: timely payment processing (not 6–8+ months), simplified and consistent Exception request procedures, realistic funding that matches resident acuity levels, and transparent and supportive communication from Medicaid staff.

HB 3838 introduces additional mandates, workforce requirements, and oversight

without addressing the foundational crisis we are in. This will only accelerate provider closures, resident displacement, and an overwhelming burden on case managers and facilities across the state.

If the State truly wants to support adult care homes, it must first demonstrate that support through functional systems, fair compensation, and genuine collaboration. We cannot build new laws on a collapsing foundation.

I urge you to oppose HB 3838 and instead direct resources and legislative focus on overhauling the current Medicaid infrastructure—ensuring fair and timely payment, streamlining the exceptions process, and supporting providers so that we can continue to serve Oregon's most vulnerable residents with dignity and stability.