



MV Advancements Testimony Opposing HB 3838

April 29, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marie Gwilliam, and I am the Operations Director at MV Advancements, a provider of Residential, Employment and Day Services to Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) for 59 years. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony today in strong opposition to HB 3838.

At MV Advancements, our priority has always been to provide high-quality, individualized supports that empower people to live full, meaningful lives in their communities. We are proud to be good stewards of public funding, stretching every dollar to offer competitive wages, meaningful benefits, and supportive work environments for our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

HB 3838 undermines this work. Instead of providing the necessary direct investments into the workforce, it creates a costly, duplicative, and bureaucratic structure that will increase administrative burden, limit provider flexibility, and do nothing to directly benefit the DSPs or the people we support.

Our services are tailored to each individual — there is no 'one-size-fits-all' model that works in a system centered on personal choice. DSPs often prepare meals, support medical needs, and assist individuals in making informed life decisions — duties that this bill does not even accurately acknowledge. Applying a rigid workforce model across such a diverse system threatens to erode the very foundations of person-centered care.

Furthermore, HB 3838 imposes an unprecedented regulatory framework without proper oversight. It mandates sharing private employee information, threatens organizational autonomy, and risks draining precious resources away from direct services. Oregon's I/DD providers are already heavily regulated by multiple agencies. Adding another layer will only divert focus from what matters most: providing consistent, high-quality supports.

We also worry about the unintended consequences: higher costs, fewer service options, potential provider closures, and increased barriers to care for individuals with disabilities. These outcomes are unacceptable at a time when access to services is already strained.

The true solution to the workforce crisis is clear and well-documented: meaningful investment in DSP wages and benefits, not additional regulation. The legislature's own study identified a \$530 million funding gap for community provider organizations. Directly funding workforce increases will have a real, immediate impact, unlike the administrative structures proposed under HB 3838.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

MV ADVANCEMENTS EMPOWERS AND SUPPORTS OVER 350 ADULTS WHO EXPERIENCE DISABILITIES
IN YAMHILL, MARION, AND POLK COUNTIES TO LIVE, WORK, AND THRIVE.



At MV Advancements, we believe deeply in valuing our employees and the people we serve — and we know that doing so requires real investment, not more bureaucracy. We respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3838 and instead focus efforts on funding the workforce that Oregon's most vulnerable citizens depend on.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marie Guillian

Operations Director

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