

Submitter:

Tolif Gemechu

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3838

My name is Tolif Gemechu, and I am a licensed adult foster home provider in Milwaukie, OR. For over 6 years, I have dedicated my life and home to providing compassionate, safe, and dignified care to adults who are elderly, living with disabilities, or otherwise unable to live independently.

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to HB 3838. While I recognize that oversight and accountability are important in our field, this bill imposes excessive regulations and policy changes that will create unnecessary burdens for providers like me and could ultimately reduce the quality and availability of care for vulnerable adults.

First, the changes proposed by HB 3838—such as, increased administrative requirements, changes in staffing ratios, or new inspection protocols fail to take into account the day-to-day realities of running an adult foster home. Many of us are small providers, operating out of our personal residences, and the added workload and financial strain from these mandates could force some to close their doors.

Second, the bill could have the unintended effect of reducing the number of qualified providers willing to serve. The population we care for already faces limited placement options, and HB 3838 risks making that crisis worse. By making the environment more restrictive and less supportive, the bill threatens to destabilize a system already under strain.

Third, adult foster homes are often the most personalized and community-integrated care option available. The flexibility we have to meet our residents' individual needs is what makes this model work. If HB 3838 restricts that flexibility through blanket mandates, it will undermine our ability to provide care that respects the dignity, preferences, and unique circumstances of each resident.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider HB 3838 and engage directly with adult foster care providers and residents before moving forward. We support thoughtful improvements to the system, but this bill, as currently written, would harm both providers and the people we are committed to caring for.

Thank you for considering my testimony.