

Submitter: Krista Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Krista Smith, and I am the Executive Director of RISE Services, Inc. I have dedicated the last 20 years to the I/DD field here in Oregon, beginning my career as a Direct Support Professional.

At RISE, we prioritize open communication, safety, innovation, and specialized training to advance nationally recognized and person-centered support. We invest in our employees through competitive wages, education, and other benefits to remain an employer of choice. We also hold ourselves to the highest standards with strategic planning, strict reporting requirements, and satisfaction surveys to ensure accountability and quality care.

I know others will address many concerns with HB 3838, so I will focus on one key issue: this proposed Standards Board is a clear attempt to expand SEIU's influence by collecting workers' personal information and diverting taxpayer dollars away from direct care. This directly conflicts with federal law, which protects an employee's right to freely choose whether to unionize and with which union—typically done through a grassroots effort.

Furthermore, because SEIU drafted this proposal, they are positioned to dominate this unelected board in order to control outcomes in their favor. Many already unionized DSPs in Oregon receive little advocacy from SEIU, and their bargained wages are lower than what our organization currently pays. SEIU has historically opposed DSP wage increases while advocating for Personal Support Workers to earn more—yet now seeks to control our workforce?

These conflicts of interest undermine the intent of this Standards Board, raising serious concerns about its true purpose.

Thank you,

~Krista Smith