

The workforce standards board is costly and duplicative for these reasons:

The bill directs the board to perform reviews on wages and benefits and report to legislature; this is already done through the B and A rate study (and is able to be updated over time as costs change)- the most recent report shows the model is only funded at 70%. Providers also already report wages and benefits through the annual NCI state of the workforce survey (mandated).

We are facing potential reductions, creating a costly oversight agency instead of funding- directly takes from DSP wages and benefits.

The release of worker names and city of residence is a significant overreach of their privacy, additionally the admin costs for agencies to ask if people want to opt out will divert resources from delivering meaningful services.

Many providers I know offer benefits and work cultures where staff feel a sense of belonging and are valued and respected. This board would strip providers of our ability to be unique.

As leaders we know we must take good care of employees if we expect them to provide good care to those they support, we do so without charging employees a premium, we do so because they matter.

Worker safety is already regulated through OSHA, and as employers we know we need to pay good attention to worker safety in order to have employees able to deliver quality services. Having high quality safety standards also protects the safety of those we get to serve.

Worker rights are already protected through BOLI, allowing employers to make personnel decisions when appropriate, this board would put barriers in making timely decisions- stripping those served of choice in who they are receiving services from.

ODDS already provides oversight for licensed settings and services- very recent rule updates give them the ability to hold agencies accountable- you have to give them time to apply these rules and weed out the bad actors.

The cost of this board is high, for the state and for providers. The bill includes multiple paid staff, to perform work that is not necessary. This is not good stewardship of resources.

Please vote NO on SB1505

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