

Submitter: Justin Wilkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3838

This bill establishes a completely unnecessary committee that will do much more harm than good. Homecare workers and agencies are already held to extremely high standards with stringent requirement criteria, audits, training, and extensive documentation. The standards and practices in place currently are already a massive time-consuming and financial burden to keep in compliance, adding more bureaucracy to this system will not benefit the disabled Oregonians we support and would only add to the cost of the service while decreasing worker compensation. Everything listed in the "duties" of this commission are for things either already in place or for things that are not needed. This committee would also likely intentionally erode the ability of private agencies to compete in the marketplace by limiting their ability to offer ambitious benefits or enticing rates that attract new homecare workers into the field. Every disabled Oregonian is different and a "one-size-fits-all" blanket approach will not work for home healthcare. Union leaders in such a committee, creating rules and regulations, is also a ridiculous conflict of interest. Whether this is intentional or not, rules and standards set by union leaders gives them an unfair advantage in the marketplace and puts them in a position where rules could be made that could be impossible to implement unless you're a multi-million dollar union backed organization. This creates a monopoly and erases competition. More rules equals more burden and more paperwork which inevitably leads to lower pay for workers and less citizens interested in doing the tough job of caring for disabled individuals. The system is working and thousands of disabled Oregon residents are appreciative of the care that we provide. This unnecessary committee would break the system with excessive bureaucracy and red tape, creating further barriers that make the worker shortage problem even worse and will grind the system to a halt.

I could provide many talking points in opposition to each line of this bill but I will end with this.. If you read through the committee "duties" in this bill, none of the things listed actually benefit the disabled people which we provide service and care. You have to ask yourself, if disabled individuals are not benefitting from such a committee, who is benefitting?