

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

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 3838 to establish a Workforce Standards Board in the Long-term Care Industry.

The care industry is in crisis, with underpaid, overworked care workers lacking basic protections. This puts both workers and vulnerable Oregonians at risk. HB 3838 offers a proven solution: a Workforce Standards Board to improve wages, working conditions, and care quality.

HB 3838 is a cost-effective approach. A Workforce Standards Board will ensure fair wages, benefits, and training, reducing long-term costs and improving care outcomes.

This bill uplifts many of the most vulnerable Oregonians, as care workers are disproportionately women, people of color, and immigrants, and have long been denied fair wages and protections. HB 3838 is a step toward correcting this and ensuring dignity and respect for care workers.

As a former nonprofit executive director of agencies serving seniors and people with disabilities, it was my experience that the low wages, limitations of hours with each client, lack of reimbursement for travel time/expense, and physical and emotional demands of the job had high costs: to the care provider and those they cared for. I urge you to pass HB 3838 so we can begin to adjust the wages and working conditions for those who care for our most vulnerable neighbors, friends and family, most of whom are women with warm, loving hearts and hands but little other career options.

I urge you to support HB 3838 and stand with the workers who keep our care system running.

Sincerely,
Susan Stoltenberg
Portland, OR