

Sam Vigil Jr.
Vice Chair of the Board
Willamette View, Inc.
12705 S.E. River Road
Portland, OR 97222

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, Or 97301

SUBJECT: Opposition to HB 3838

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3838, which proposes to establish the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Workforce Standards Board.

While the intent may be to improve workforce standards in the home care sector, this bill poses significant challenges to in-home care agencies as well as other HCBS types of agencies, while threatening to undermine care for those the sector serves.

As a board member of one of the oldest continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) in Oregon, I know that the Willamette View team strives to provide the best care for residents across the entire senior living spectrum, from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing to memory care, while maintaining the latest and highest standards of care.

The creation of a Workforce Standards Board would create unnecessary bureaucracy and an increased administrative burden across the sector – from in-home care agencies, adult foster care homes, and senior living communities – that would detract and distract from the focus of providing care for the beneficiaries of care.

The additional administrative burden and cost would create a financial strain on any business in order to comply with proposed standards, further jeopardizing the existence of those businesses, which would reduce access to care and the livelihoods of caregivers.

And those who remain in business would have to pass down those increased costs to the beneficiaries of care, making it more expensive, and likely to price out some of the most vulnerable who need that care, making inaccessible the care they need.

In addition, while this bill purports to advocate for workers, it would allow the SEIU to get its fingers into businesses with inordinate control where they don't belong, mandating a one-size-

fits-all scheme, no matter the community, the varying economics of various communities, and the market forces that influence employment. What this bill and the SEIU fail to recognize is that you cannot legislate employment measures and think to solve a shortage of workers in the sector, if they're choosing to work elsewhere.

Yes, it is difficult to get workers for the sector, but let the market sort it out, let the businesses generate creative ideas to recruit and retain workers that will benefit both, rather than attempting to "fix" the market with top-down, heavy-handed methods. That is a quick way to destroy a much-needed market sector.

I strongly urge a vote of NO on HB 3838. This bill is bad legislation. It benefits no one. Instead it would destabilize an already challenged sector that would worsen staffing conditions and divert focus away from caring for those with developmental disabilities and for older adults.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Vigil Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Sam Vigil Jr.
(Damascus, OR)
Vice Chair of the Board
Willamette View, Inc.