



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

MEASURE: HB 4162
EXHIBIT: 3
2012 SESSION H BUSINESS & LABOR
DATE: 2/13/12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Staff

Testimony in Support of HB 4162,
providing civil rights and sexual harrassment protections to interns
Friday, February 10, 2012, 3 p.m.,
Senate Health Care, Human Services, and Rural Policy Committee

Chairs Garrett and Kennemer, Vice-Chairs Doherty and Esquivel,
Representatives Conger, Hoyle, Johnson, and Matthews:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports this bill. This bill extends civil rights and sexual harassment protections to a very vulnerable population—interns who are working to gain education and experience to better themselves and their employment prospects.

Current Oregon workplace law applies only to those who have a direct employment relationship with the employer and does not cover interns. In some cases, interns have not been able to seek redress for sexual harassment because they are not considered employees. This bill closes a glaring loophole in workplace protections.

As we have seen time and again, interns can be subjected to predatory behavior and are extremely vulnerable to sexual harassment. Under current law, they are not even able to bring a civil rights complaint against their employer. The Commission believes that it is in the best interests of Oregon women to have workplace protections for all who labor in a workplace, not just paid employees.

Please vote Aye on HB 4162.

Sincerely,

Sunny Petit, Chair
Oregon Commission for Women

OR Commission for Women

Chair:
Sunny Petit

Vice Chair:
Jenny Greenleaf

Commissioners:
Megan Jacquot
Mee Seon Kwon
Karen Shimada
Mariahm Stephenson
Stephanie Vardavas

Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp

Staff:
Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Exec. Asst.

Jenny Greenleaf, Vice Chair
Oregon Commission for Women