

April 5, 2013

OPPOSITION TO HB 3403

House Health Care Committee

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Wright. I am writing this letter to ask that you please do not pass HB 3403. As a blind Business Enterprise Program manager, I know this bill will completely devastate my business.

Two years ago, fellow blind managers and I were here fighting a proposed Executive Order with many of the same restraints as HB 3403. We were successful then and I hope we can be successful now. You see, nothing has changed. We are still blind, tax paying Oregonians, trying to run profitable businesses. Our customers still expect variety and affordability. Our families depend on this income for their livelihood. Our employees depend on their paychecks to support their families. Our teaming partners depend on our contracts as part of their income. This Bill would have a crippling effect on the lives of so many people.

If passed, what would HB 3403 accomplish? If passed, the vending machines are now filled with more expensive products, with shorter shelf life, and a proven history of more waste. If a customer is not satisfied with the services that I provide, they go somewhere else or bring it from home. All people deserve the right to choose how to legally spend their money and to choose what they eat.

In closing, I would like to say that I firmly believe good health should be promoted and encouraged, but should not be dictated. For these reasons, I again ask that you please consider a no vote on HB 3403.

Thank you for your time,

Ann Wright
Blind Business Manager
Salem, Oregon