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STATE SENATOR



OREGON STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 17

Testimony on SB 344

Before the Senate General Government, Consumer, and Small Business Protection Committee
February 13, 2013

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present remarks on Senate Bill 344. As you may know, social networking sites, like Facebook, now allow users to safeguard their privacy by restricting access to certain types of personal information. However, some employers are trying to circumvent these privacy protections to gain access to private information. Around the country, stories are emerging of employers requiring prospective employees to provide their social media log-in information as part of the interview process. In my view, this is like asking a job seeker to turn over personal diary entries or letters from their significant others. Senator Burdick and I decided to sponsor Senate Bill 344 to protect Oregonians from such an absolute violation of personal privacy.

Now it turns out that a bi-partisan group of legislators is working on the same idea. Senators Starr, Knopp, and Close have introduced a similar bill while Representative Doherty has taken the lead on this issue in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with this diverse group of legislators to pass a privacy protection bill this session.

I also want to testify in support of the dash 1 amendment. This amendment would extend similar protections to those applying to institutions of higher education. The amendment also clarifies that this bill does not prohibit an employer from asking an employee to disclose a user name or password used to access non-personal accounts that provide access to the employer's internal computer or information systems. These are significant improvements to the bill and I fully support their adoption.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

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