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NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Memorandum

Date: May 20, 2013
To: Chair Chip Shields, Vice-Chair Larry George, Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection
Copy: Channa Newell
From: Representative Lew Frederick
Subject: House Bill 2669 A

I am writing to request that you schedule a work session on HB 2669 A, relating to employee protections. This bill passed the House Committee on Business and Labor, the House Committee on Rules and the House Floor unanimously save members excused.

HB 2669 A extends certain employee protections to interns. It is selective in those protections, not a wholesale extension of employee protections to interns. It brings them under the umbrella of protection from things like sexual harassment, racial discrimination, and retaliation for whistle-blowing. Fun fact: The prohibitions we are instructed about in the training at the beginning of every session do not currently apply to interns, only to paid employees.

Concerns raised by the Oregon University System regarding the definition of “intern” in the original bill were addressed by amendment. AOI stated that their original concerns were thoroughly answered by the amendment. This bill is supported by AARP, the Oregon Council on Civil Rights, the Urban League of Portland, Disability Rights Oregon, and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions.

Please schedule a work session as soon as possible for HB 2669 A.