



Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

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MEASURE: _____
EXHIBIT: _____
H BUSINESS & LABOR
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To Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

The Oregon State Chamber of Commerce is opposed to House Bill 2111 and House Bill 2112. As representatives of small business in local communities throughout Oregon, we expect much more to be done in the way of outreach before proposing bills that impact employment definitions and penalties.

In regards to House Bill 2111, Oregon's disability laws already provide extensive coverage and protections when compared to federal laws. For example, Oregon disability accommodations and discrimination laws cover all Oregon businesses with 6 employees or more compared with 15 employees or more as defined in federal laws.

Chambers of Commerce throughout Oregon in all corners of our state are concerned when legislation such as this is proposed without any coordinated outreach by the Bureau of Labor and Industries to engage in discussions with local Chambers of Commerce. We feel these actions should be taken before proposing changes that would redefine who is considered 'disabled' for the purposes of employment discrimination laws and employment accommodation laws.

In regards to House Bill 2112, major consequences already exist for employers who fail to appropriately itemize wage deductions for employees. Again, outreach from the Bureau of Labor and Industries to local Chambers of Commerce throughout Oregon (who represent thousands of small businesses) would be helpful in determining what problem we are trying to solve with such legislation. Oregon Revised Statute already establishes consequences both criminally and legally for employers who fail to appropriately and accurately itemize wage deductions. We fail to see the need in creating additional fines against those who are creating jobs and putting Oregonians to work.

As local Chambers of Commerce throughout the state, the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce hopes that future discussions during the 2013 Legislative Session will quickly shift from these types of proposals to legislation that helps foster an environment of job creation for Oregon employers in all corners of the state. We should all be deeply concerned if we continue to spend the valuable time of Business and Labor committee members on issues outside of Oregon's most pressing issue – private sector job creation.

Sincerely,

Oregon State Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
Bernie Bottomly, Portland Business Alliance
Jason Brandt, Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Christine Dieker, Keizer Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Fromdahl, Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Steve Gilmore, Wilsonville Area Chamber of Commerce
Brad Hicks, Medford/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Pedro, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce
Janet Steele, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce