

From: Rochelle Rising,
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To whom it may concern,

On August 4th, 2011 I was checking at Safeway in Lake Oswego, Oregon at store 508, and got stung by the OLCC on an alcohol sting. They sent a minor through my line, with alcohol. I asked her for her ID, and then typed in what I thought it said the birthdate was. I thought it said she was old enough, so sold her the alcohol.

A police officer and OLCC representative came into my line and asked me to close it down. He told me I sold alcohol to a minor. I told him he must have been wrong, because I always ID everyone who looks under 30 years old. He showed me her ID, and I told him the birthdate still looked the same to me.

What happened is that I misread it, because I needed glasses and didn't know it. I transposed two numbers. I immediately went to the eye doctor, and got prescription glasses ordered. The eye doctor wrote a letter, stating that I needed glasses, and that with the new prescription I would be able to read the numbers well. I was charged with a Class A Misdemeanor – a criminal penalty.

I was let go from Safeway on August 9th, 2011, after 5 days. I lost my health insurance, and my dental coverage. I had worked for Safeway for almost 15 years, and had a perfect record of proper ID'ing for alcohol/tobacco sales all of that time. Safeway's policy of 1st offense, termination is unfair, in my case, because it was purely accidental. I was the Checkstand Manager, and had a good employment record. I had received many awards and was well liked by my managers, employees, and customers.

The Safeway Corporate part of the company treated me like a criminal, and were very rude to me. I tried to fight for my job, to no avail. I still do not have health insurance to this day, February 10th, 2014.

I ask that your committee support SB 1546 to help workers who lose their whole livelihood, on an honest, unintentional mistake. I lost everything when this happened to me. My husband, my credit, my house, and of course medical and dental insurance. I make around 1/2 of the income I made at Safeway, and with no benefits. Please pass this bill, so that we can help current retail employees who are honest, and who unintentionally make mistakes like I did. Don't make them work under this threat. We don't deserve to be treated like criminals because we are not criminals. We are hard working, honest people and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity!

Thank you for reading my story,

Sincerely, Rochelle Rising