



February 18, 2015

Testimony to House Rules Committee
Provided by: Paloma Sparks, Legislative Director
Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2374, which would make violation of the existing prohibition against paying petition signature gatherers by the signature a wage and hour violation as well as an elections law violation.

As you know the Bureau of Labor and Industries enforces anti-discrimination laws that apply to workplaces, housing and public accommodations; enforces wage and hour laws; educates employers to avoid unnecessary worker complaints; and partners with labor, business and other organizations to develop a highly-skilled, competitive workforce in Oregon.

We have introduced this legislation as an important tool to protect workers who gather signatures for election petitions.

The Oregon constitution prohibits paying signature gatherers on a per-signature basis. This protects not just the integrity of our election and petition system but also the workers who collect signatures. Violations of that provision are enforceable under election law. It is not presently enforceable as a wage and hour protection for workers. While the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may inspect petitions under ORS 260.262, if he finds a violation of wage and hour law he cannot do more than notify the Secretary of State.

The Bureau has the expertise to identify and investigate wage and hour violations. This bill will give the Bureau the authority to do just that. We will be able to make sure that where the Bureau identifies violations of the current law we can stand up for workers and protect their rights and wages.

Thank you for your attention. I am happy to answer any questions.

PORTLAND

800 NE Oregon St. Suite 1045
Portland, OR 97232-2180
(971) 673-0761
Fax (971) 673-0762

SALEM

3865 Wolverine St. NE; E-1
Salem, OR 97305-1268
(503) 378-3292
FAX (503) 373-7636

EUGENE

1400 Executive Parkway, Suite 200
Eugene, OR 97401-2158
(541) 686-7623
FAX (541) 686-7980

BEND

Apprenticeship and Training
Worksource Bend
1645 NE Forbes Rd, Ste 106
Bend, OR 97701-4990
(541) 322-2435
FAX (541) 389-8265

Oregon Relay TTY:711

www.oregon.gov/boli

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

MEDFORD

Apprenticeship and Training
119 N Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501-2629
(541) 776-6201
FAX (541) 776-6284

