

LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON
State Senator



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

March 4, 2015

Colleagues,

I bring before you SB 491 that will help to level the playing field in the work force for between women and men which is essential to expanding opportunity and growing Oregon's economy. This legislation will eliminate barriers for women by ensuring equal pay for equal work.

Currently, women in Oregon make on average \$.80 for every \$1 a man makes. SB 491 requires businesses with 50 or more employees seeking state contracts of over \$500,000 to certify there are no pay gaps between men and women by job class.

SB 491 requires DAS to develop an online training and certification module to allow vendors to prove knowledge of state and federal pay equity laws. It requires vendors bidding on contracts over \$500,000 and who have 50 or more FTE to submit certification of having taken the training with their proposal as part of the responsible bidder requirement. The bill will also allow the vending community time to comply without losing opportunities to bid on contracts.

I urge you to pass this very important piece of legislation that helps women, increases fairness in the workforce, and will ultimately improve our economy.

