

# Local 99

American Federation of Musicians • AFL - CIO / CLC



artistry  
advocacy  
unity



March 10, 2015

To whom it may concern;

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The American Federation of Musicians, Local 99, with a jurisdiction that includes the northern part of the State of Oregon, would like to declare its support of HB 3059, a bill that creates a process to provide a safety net for live entertainers.

The vast majority of live entertainers that work in the club environment, including adult entertainers, musicians, and comedians, work as independent contractors. For many, there was no formal training in the industry. Their understanding of their rights, as well as rules and regulations generally comes from their experience over time. However, when early in their careers critical information about live entertainer rights and workplace protection comes from management—even though management may not have a comprehensive legal understanding or the best interest of the worker in mind.

HB 3059 would direct BOLI to create a poster detailing the rights of live entertainer independent contractors. The poster would be hung in live entertainment facilities where all workers (contractor or otherwise) can see it. HB 3059 would also create a hotline that live entertainment workers could call anonymously with questions or concerns regarding workplace safety, wage & hour issues, possible illegal activity such as sex trafficking, or any other relevant issues. The line would be operated by someone with a background as a live entertainer, someone with a background operating a crisis line, or a social worker.

There were many issues that directly affected me, as a professional musician for over 25 years, which could have been minimized had this type of process been in place. I encountered safety issues, such as electrical problems where we accessed power, as well as flimsy and unsafe stage conditions. There were also wage issues, with payments not properly accounted for at the end of the night, and for musicians both male and female, it is not uncommon to have to deal with stalkers, and the attendant safety concerns.

A vote for HB 3059 is a vote for:

- Workplace safety for all workers regardless of industry
- Workers more easily accessing information about their rights
- An avenue to help curb sex trafficking

We stand in support of this bill and ask you to vote in favor of HB 3059.

Sincerely,

Bruce Fife  
President, AFM, Local 99