



Subject: Support HB 3025

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. This work includes advocacy for living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs such as decent employment, housing, and food. The National Association of Social Workers supports HB 3025 because it takes an important step forward toward ensuring that those who may have committed a crime in the past have a decent chance of obtaining employment after they have paid their debt to society.

Over the past twenty-two years, I have worked in many venues throughout the criminal justice system, from the police department to the courts. I have witnessed clients who have successfully completed probation and parole requirements only to then be unable to obtain a job. They could not find a job due to their record—specifically, they could not find a job because they had to “check the box.” The box asks if you are a convicted felon but it doesn’t give you the chance to explain if you have changed your life around.

If a person is no longer within the system and they have the skills and education to obtain a job, they should be given the chance, particularly if their conviction has no relation to the job in question. A person may have been charged with a crime, but wasn’t sentenced or perhaps was arrested and not charged. Situations like these should not keep an individual from obtaining suitable employment. Please support House Bill 3025 to give people who have managed to get their lives back on track a chance to gain employment and be a productive member of society.

Javelin L Hardy
CSWA and NASW-Oregon Board Member