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Date: March 25th, 2015
To: Chair Holvey and Committee Members
House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Carla C. Piluso, Representative, HD-50
Regarding: HB 3025

I would like to voice my support of HB 3025, commonly known as “Ban the Box”. As many of you may know, I worked in law enforcement for 30 years with the Gresham Police Department. I started in 1979 and was promoted through every rank, spending my last six years as Gresham’s Chief of Police. I have always balanced my law enforcement career by being heavily involved in non-profit work centered on reducing homelessness and poverty. With my extensive experience, I’ve seen first-hand the devastation that recidivism has on individuals, families and communities. It isn’t pretty.

While many think of law enforcement as crime response, or serving justice, and often overlooked goal is to prevent future crime. If an individual serves their time and takes steps to turn their life around, we need to ensure that the system is setup to support these positive steps away from criminal behavior. For far too many, including the approximately 32,000 people currently under the Department of Corrections’ control the ability to *even interview* for a job is inhibited by that little box on job applications.

When people with prior convictions and arrests are continually denied the opportunity to even interview for employment, let alone be offered a job, we are instead pushing them back towards their past criminal life. The single most effective deterrent against re-offending is employment.

I urge your support HB 3025. This bill is the best choice to make sure all of our constituents have a fair chance at being able to make it to an interview, and if successful, *a job* and a real shot stable future. HB 3025 ensures that our justice system can keep its promise of a second chance for those who have served their time.

Thank you for your time on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Representative, HD-50