

LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON
State Senator



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

April 1, 2015

Colleagues,

I come before you once again to discuss SB 491, this time to ask for your support for the -1 amendment. The -1 amendment will replace the current, printed bill; it is essentially the same bill as SB 491 and will continue to do what was originally intended, but there are few key changes.

One important change is the removal of the labor compliance check at prequalification. In the introduced bill, contracting agencies were originally required to show their understanding of pay equity laws at two different stages: the prequalification stage as well as during the responsible bidder application, which occurs before a contract is awarded. Due to concerns of redundancy, this amendment removes prequalification piece so that contracting agencies would only have to show their compliance once.

I would also like to clarify that this amendment only applies to state contracting agencies; local government agencies are excluded from the bill. Certification of training is only needed when the bid on state contracts is over \$500,000 and if the bidder has 50 or more employees. The training program will not require a fee; the Department of Administrative Services will offer the training for free.

Colleagues I urge you to pass SB 491 with the -1 amendment intact. This is a very important piece of legislation that will help level the playing field for women in our state and brings us one step closer to equal pay in Oregon.

