



American Council of the Blind of Oregon
Willamette Chapter
4352 Trapper Dr. NE, Salem, Oregon 97305

April 20, 2015

RE: HB-3187

We, of the American Council of the Blind of Oregon, Willamette Chapter, support HB-3187. The portion of the bill that deals with the Oregon State Commission for the Blind commission board term lengths is a good concept. This section extends the term of the board member from two years to four years. We believe this extension would be helpful to allow board members to better learn their role and better understand the issues of the blind community. What we object to is the emergency clause of the bill. We believe it would be in the best interest of the community and of the agency to implement the bill without the emergency clause. This would start the bill on January 1, 2016. We are confident that this would give the State and the blind community sufficient time to reconstitute the new board and improve the quality of the services to people who desperately need rehabilitative services.

Sincerely,

Patrick Schwab, Ed.D.
Secretary, ACB of Oregon-Willamette Chapter