



April 16, 2015

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Workforce

RE: SB 814 – State preemption for employment benefits

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

Thank you for your time in reviewing input from the City of Eugene related to the potential impacts of Senate Bill 814 as written.

As a Human Rights City, this bill would limit our ability to independently establish policy that we think would be beneficial to the citizens of our city as a whole. In keeping with this commitment, the City of Eugene was an early adopter of expanding definitions of protected classes, including establishing protections based on marital or domestic partner status and source of income. We believe these protections have been beneficial to our community and citizens.

The preemption of local authority to regulate employment benefits from private employers would limit our ability to establish policies that we believe would be in the best interest of our community. We urge the Legislature to respect the rights of local governments to exercise local control through home rule authority. We are invested in maintaining this authority specifically as it relates to the ability for City Council to consider policies that would establish greater benefits and protections to our citizens with careful consideration of the viewpoints of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene