

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725 / F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov

Testimony in Support of HB 3060
March 20, 2017, Hearing Room E, 1pm
House Committee on Business and Labor

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Barreto and Bynum and Representatives
Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Hack, Heard and Kennemer:

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs and the Oregon Commission for Women strongly support HB 3060. HB 3060 will require companies seeking state contracts valued at \$150,000 or more to certify that they do not discriminate on the basis of one or more listed invidious classifications, including race, national origin, religion, disability, age, marital status, sex, and actual or perceived gender identity. It would also require that contractors certify that they have policies and practices prohibiting sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

While the State of Oregon already prohibits discrimination based upon these attributes, transgender Oregonians routinely experience discrimination in accessing benefits under their employer-provided health insurance. Insurance companies regulated by the State of Oregon are already prohibited from engaging in such discrimination, but other insurers such as those regulated by the U.S. Department of Labor are not. HB 3060 is necessary to require that large state contractors offer health insurance programs that provide transgender Oregonians equal benefits and care.

It is both deeply humane and extremely practical to mandate equal coverage regardless of gender identity. According to the American Psychological Association, outcomes improve dramatically for transgender people when they get the care they need. Overall mental health improves by 78%, and the risk of suicide drops by more than 80%.

The Oregon Commission for Women and the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs steadfastly oppose all forms of sex and gender discrimination and urge the adoption of HB 3060, to ensure that Oregonians enjoy equal access to health insurance benefits under their employer-provided plans.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Vardavas, OCFW Commissioner

Robin Morris Collin, OCBA Vice Chair

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Mari Watanabe, Chair
David Yuen Tam, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Gene Whisnant

OR Commission on Black Affairs

James Morris, Chair
Robin Morris Collin, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Senator Rod Monroe
Representative Janelle Bynum

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair
Linda Irma Castillo, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Senator Sara Gelser
Rep. Teresa Alonso León

OR Commission for Women

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair
Kim Olson, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson
Representative Sheri Malstrom

Staff

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant
Ty Schwoeffermann, Policy Analyst

