



April 4, 2017

**ATTN: House Human Services and Housing Committee**

***RE: Support of Legislation Proposed by House Bill 3253***

Dear House Committee Chairperson Alissa Keny-Guyer, and Committee Members:

I am writing to you in support of the legislation proposed by House Bill 3253, and the associated amendments currently being reviewed by Legislative Counsel.

My name is Vance Hoddle and I am the Region Vice President for Canteen Vending, a division of the Compass Group, N.A.D. My company works in partnership with Licensed Blind Managers that are involved in the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) that is overseen by the State Licensing Agency, the Oregon Commission for the Blind.

The Business Enterprise Program's purpose is to provide blind persons with remunerative employment, enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind, and stimulate the blind to greater efforts in striving to make themselves self-supporting through being licensed to operate vending facilities on federal, state, and other properties, as licensed business entrepreneurs. This proposed legislation and forthcoming amendments are critical for creating a robust program that has continuity and stability, while protecting the fundamental rights of blind individuals licensed through the program. This proposed legislation will also create new employment opportunities for additional blind individuals to participate and flourish in the program. Additionally, this proposed legislation fosters the concept of public private partnerships through the utilization of subcontractors or teaming partners, expands service offerings to customers, and enhances support to the Licensed Blind Managers in their individual business models.

I urge you to support this legislation to expand the Business Enterprise Program's reach, and open a new wave of remunerative employment opportunities for blind individuals in the State of Oregon.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Vance Hoddle

Region Vice President

Canteen Vending