

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:

My name is Marci Furnish and I am the President of MGM Vending, LLC. I am writing this letter in support of the proposed legislation House Bill 3253, and the associated amendments being reviewed at this time by Legislative Counsel. My company works alongside the Licensed Blind Managers of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), under the direction of the Oregon Commission for the Blind. I am very familiar with the federal Randolph Sheppard Act in its entirety, and have a special working relationship with the BEP of Oregon and the Licensed Blind Managers that I serve. I have served these organizations since 2003. I support their needs in hopes of an invigorating plan to move forward with focus on the goal being to help the Licensed Blind Managers become self-sufficient through owning their own independent businesses, as was intended by the Randolph Sheppard Act.

I have unfortunately seen the BEP, through written directive, advise me to reroute commissions to them if a Licensed Blind Manager dies, if one is terminated or if a Blind Manager moves to a different building, leaving the current building "unassigned". The Commission, on a monthly basis, requires me to send them on an agreed upon form, the commissions for those buildings which have been "unassigned" for one reason or another, and have assured me that the commissions will once again go to a Licensed Blind Manager, as soon as they train one to run that particular building. One of these "unassigned" buildings (federal), has been without a Licensed Blind Manager since 2013, since the Blind Manager died. He has never been replaced by another Blind Manager. I currently pay the Commission for the Blind, not the BEP, for commissions on 5 federal and state buildings. They say that they haven't found a qualified unemployed licensed blind person to take over a building. So for 4 years, monies have gone to the Commission for the Blind from me, for commissions that should have been given to Blind Managers. I have no idea where that money goes. The Commission has lost it's focus. My hope is that the Commission will get back to the Randolph Sheppard Act and stop this practice and that they will do their job and encourage blind people to enlist in the program. The loss of the whole mission statement goes into question if this continues.

Please help bring the Oregon Commission for the Blind and the BusinessEnterprise Program in compliance with the Randolph Sheppard Act. Bring back the stability and functions of this act back to the blind community. They deserve to be treated fairly.

Thank you for your efforts and support of our blind people.

Regards,

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