

Support for House Bill 3253 – Steve Jackson, Licensed Blind Manager

TO: Senate Human Services and Housing Chairperson Alissa Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

Hello and good day to you all. This correspondence is to express my full support of House Bill 3253, as I believe it will be very beneficial for blind people in Oregon!

My name is Steve Jackson. I am a Licensed Blind Manager in Portland Oregon. I have been in the Business Enterprise Program for 10 years, and I am presently one of the youngest in the program.

Over the course of those 10 years, I have run my own cafeteria and my own coffee shop, as well as handled vending machines. I have had the opportunity to have subcontractors in various locations of my assigned facilities. I would like you to know that I direct, control, and supervise my subcontractors so that I may do business more proficiently.

I also support vibrant recruiting efforts and the need for shoring up the training for the Business Enterprise Program, as well as assuring meaningful active participation occurs between the Oregon Commission for the Blind and elected body of Licensed Blind Managers, which has not been the case for far too long now. This bill does all of that.

I also have found that the current complaint process afforded to Licensed Blind Managers is in need of a complete overhaul, as it is costly and is not a prudent way to expend taxpayer dollars. Therefore, I am pleased to know this bill is addressing that issue, as well.

Furthermore, I am appreciative of the survivorship piece outlined in this bill, as my spouse would have the responsibilities of winding down my business in the unfortunate event that something happened to me. Again, another positive aspect of this legislation.

Based on the above reasons, and more, please understand that I am full support of House Bill 3253 for it will help myself as well as other blind individuals to work as successful business people.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Steve Jackson
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