

May 15, 2017

Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce
Senate Workforce Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce,

The Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA), is a group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates, who are dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women. Together, the Co-chairs of the OWHWA strongly support HB 3060.

HB 3060 works to reduce discrimination in the workplace. By requiring contractors who wish to work with the state of Oregon to have clear policies and practices that prohibit sexual assault, sexual harassment, and discrimination, the bill will lead to safer work environments. HB 3060 also defines a process by which complaints of discriminatory conduct should be pursued and enforced.

Jobsite safety is important for our economy. Discrimination in the work place can lead to increased turnover and decreased productivity. It also creates preventable challenges in retaining a diverse workforce. The construction trades exhibit gender and racial disparities which can be attributed in part to workplace harassment. HB 3060 promotes equity and economic opportunity in Oregon by addressing workforce and contracting.

All Oregonians deserve to work in a safe environment free from sexual assault and harassment. HB 3060 works to make this a reality for all Oregonians. We appreciate the committee's thoughtful consideration of this bill, and urge your support for HB 3060.

Sincerely,

The OWHWA Co-Chairs:



Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward



Representative Karin Power



Senator Kathleen Taylor



Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer