



May 17, 2017

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce,

We write today to express our strong support for HB 3060A, Preventing Discrimination Through Public Contracting. As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life. This legislation upholds those principles by helping to ensure that all Oregonians can live lives free from discrimination.

In spite of significant progress toward LGBTQIA equality, we know that transgender Oregonians continue to experience discrimination, particularly with respect to health care and employment. While the Oregon legislature has affirmed that all Oregonians, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability are treated equally under the law, Oregon's contracting and procurement statutes do not reflect these values and need to be updated.

HB 3060A will require prospective contractors seeking contracts more than \$150,000 to certify that they have policies and practices in place that prohibit sexual harassment, sexual assault, and discrimination, including - if they provide benefits - a prohibition on denying benefits to an employee or their dependent based solely on their gender identity.

HB 3060A also requires contractors doing business with the State of Oregon to uphold Oregon's values of equality and nondiscrimination as articulated by Oregon's insurance regulating agency, regardless of where the company's insurance is based or whether they are self-insured.

We hope that you will join us in supporting HB 3060A, which will prevent discrimination through public contracting, protecting Oregon workers and making absolutely clear that Oregon stands for equality and fair treatment for all.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Frack for the Oregon state chapter of the National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW)*  
*Sheila Swinford for Central Oregon Coast NOW*  
*Bud Feules for Greater Portland NOW*  
*TeriAnn Mason for High Desert NOW*  
*Laurie Notaro for South Willamette Valley NOW*