



February 22, 2017

Dear Chair Holvey, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Basic Rights Oregon, we respectfully request your support for HB 2005.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Oregonians experience equality.

HB 2005 extends protections against pay discrimination for all protected classes, including transgender workers. Multiple studies have shown that LGBTQ people suffer discrimination in the workforce, and the problem is more severe for transgender people. The 2015 US Transgender Survey shows that nearly one third of transgender people are living in poverty and more than 90 percent report experiencing harassment or discrimination in the workplace.

Transgender Oregonians remain among our most vulnerable and misunderstood community members, and extending our current pay equity statute to protect all LGBTQ Oregonians is an important step in ensuring equality for our community.

Basic Rights Oregon supports HB 2005 because all LGBTQ workers deserve the opportunity to support themselves and their families.

We hope that you will join us in support of HB 2005.

Thank you,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "J. M. Haque" and the second is "A. Herzfeld-Copple".

Nancy Haque & Amy Herzfeld-Copple  
*Co-Executive Directors*