

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: February 9, 2019

To: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Amanda Sager

RE: Amanda Sager Support for SB 726, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

I support SB 726 which would better protect workers that have faced discrimination in the workplace. I know that current laws don't go far enough to protect harassment victims at work and I support SB 726 because I have faced harassment in the workplace.

I have been pursued by supervisors asking for my phone number on my shifts so we could "hang out". Men have stared at my breast and ignored [me] because I have breast. I have been told "don't break a nail" and I'm "too pretty" for my job. Some people even assume my sexuality and start talking about "banging" women because they think that's how lesbians speak with one another. Jokes on them, I'm not gay. I've been groped at work after saying no. I've been laughed at because I "misunderstood a joke". And worst of all, made to feel I deserved it because I'm a young female and it was part of paying my dues.

The other women in my field went through similar things, so it became normalized. This idea of that's just what happens in this industry.

Workplace harassment affected every aspect of my life because I was relying on this job to support myself. When you have to go to work and face abuse, it takes away the dignity and respect that we all have the right to feel in the workplace but also takes away the dignity in supporting yourself. I simply wanted to go to work and not face harassment, so that I could put food on the table and live my life without fear.

I respectfully request the committee support SB 726 and commends Sen. Taylor and the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state. Furthermore, I commend Vice Chair Knopp for his leadership on this issue. This bill is critical to the workplace safety of all Oregonians.