

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: February 12, 2019

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

From: Sallie Green

RE: Sallie Green 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.

When I was 18 years old and in college I answered an ad in the local paper to help set up and tear down the stage for a band that was playing the local fair. It was just a weekend job and I got to be backstage for the bands performances. I was pretty excited that I actually got called to do it.

I showed up and I was the only "girl" there. I say girl because that's what the head of the crew called me the entire time. He was in his late 40s, maybe early 50s and looked like he had lived on the road for a long time. He never introduced himself and never bothered to get my name. He would constantly make lewd comments about my looks and my body. At one point he said I was only fit to "fetch his beer." Yet I kept my head down and did the work like the guys so I could get my pay at the end of the weekend.

To this day I can't remember what the name of the band was that played but I will never forget that mans face.

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.