

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: February 8, 2019

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

From: Anonymous Victim 1

RE: Anonymous Victim 1 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 was told I would be shown how to use the new computers coming into the office ahead of their arrival. I was asked to come to my boss's home to get a tutorial on the one he was training on. I was the age of his two daughters; I assumed his wife and daughter's would be home on the weekend. When I got there I discovered only he was home - they were out of town visiting colleges.

He came to the door just out of the shower, in his robe, feigning that he was running late. He offered me a drink - I declined. We went into his office and he sat at the computer, and I in an adjacent chair. Then it came my turn to try a few things at the keyboard. A few minutes into this he came close to me, turned my chair between his legs and pulled my face to his - his tongue in my mouth. I pushed him off and he stopped, thankfully.

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.