

## **Letter in Support of HB 2212 relating to employees with disabilities**

Dear Chair Barker and honorable committee members,

I urge you to vote yes and refer HB 2212 to the Ways & Means Committee for adequate funding.

HB 2212 was submitted as a bipartisan committee bill by the former House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

HB 2212 is a product of a workgroup of the former House committee members, State agency representatives, and several non-profit organization representatives plus National Conference of State Legislators and the Council of State Government representatives.

The workgroup has worked for several years to evaluate Oregon's programs to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We discovered Oregon has some good on-going programs but have discovered the need to coordinate our efforts and work on encouraging private businesses to adopt programs to employ people with disabilities.

HB 2212 is a good step to help aid especially small state agencies with funding to provide necessary accommodations for some current and new employees.

I appreciate the support and work of Rep. Jeff Reardon; Rep. Janeen Sollman; and Alethia Miller, Committee Administrator, to bring you this bill and request for funding.

Please pass this bill with your strong support of adequate funding to make Oregon a leader in accommodating the work environment to help employ people with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Whisnant

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