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March 1, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Jeff Barker, Chair

House Committee on Business and Labor

FROM: Dacia Johnson, Executive Director

Oregon Commission for the Blind

Subject: HB 2212

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee, I am Dacia Johnson, Executive Director for the Oregon Commission for the Blind. We are a specialized state agency that provides vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to Oregonians who are blind.

The largest grant administered at the agency provides critical services to Oregonians who are blind in need of assistance obtaining and maintaining employment. After individuals participate in rehabilitation and retraining efforts, they enter the job market to secure employment that can support themselves and their families.

Individuals who are blind can perform any number of job tasks effectively and efficiently with the appropriate training and equipment. Job accommodations are an essential component to ensuring a qualified job seeker with a disability has the necessary tools in place in order for them to be successful on the job.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue in your committee.

Sincerely,

Dacia Johnson

Executive Director