

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to tell you what happened to me because of what I believe was age discrimination in my former workplace.

Several years ago I was involved in an age discrimination law suit. If any of you have ever had to experience this, let me tell you that it can be extremely stressful, expensive and even heart breaking.

I was 56 years old at the time and was seeking employment at an agency where I had worked previously (and successfully) for nearly twenty years. All my performance evaluations had been excellent, yet when I went to a former supervisor and asked for a reference, she initially suggested that perhaps at "this time in my life" I might want to reconsider working in the the position I was seeking.

As I mentioned, this had been a position where I had worked successfully for many years. Needless to say, I was not hired and was never given a clear answer as to why the agency refused to hire me.

Their answers remained vague throughout this process. I eventually asked to speak to the acting Branch Manager about why I was not hired. She initially agreed to meet with me then never followed through with the meeting.

I was left with no answers and no employment. At this point I did decide to file a lawsuit after initially filing a complaint with BOLI.

The next five years of my life was an uphill battle to try and prove my case. I wouldn't wish this on anyone. I saw my former employer turn against me in court and I felt as if I was the one on trial to prove that I was capable of working in a place that had been, in the past, a welcoming, positive and even rewarding experience for me for such a long time.

I hope that this kind of experience does not have to happen to anyone else. It is the main reason I am writing to you.

This legislation, HB 2818, could be a positive step forward to remediate issues of age discrimination in the workplace.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading my statement. I would be glad to talk to anyone interested in seeking more information about my experience.

Sincerely,

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