

ALBIES & STARK  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

J. Ashlee Albies  
ashlee@albiesstark.com

210 SW Morrison Street, #400  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-308-4771

April 1, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 5516

Dear Legislators,

I am a practicing attorney here in Oregon, focusing on plaintiffs' side employment and civil rights law. I urge you to support SB 5516, because the Bureau of Labor and Industries needs more resources to protect the rights of working Oregonians.

Commissioner Hoyle seeks funding for staff positions that will hopefully increase the capacity and effectiveness of the BOLI Civil Rights Division. I have represented claimants through the BOLI process, and it often appears the demand on investigators is quite high compared to their capacity to effectively investigate civil rights complaints. Moreover, our firm sometimes refers people seeking legal assistance for civil rights violations directly to BOLI if we feel that the process may be beneficial to them. In addition, many workers whose rights have been violated do not seek legal help and go directly to BOLI for assistance. It is my understanding that because of the high volume of complaints made to the Civil Rights Division, investigators carry a high caseload and may be unable to give complaints the investigatory attention they may deserve. Increasing the funding and therefore the staffing at the Civil Rights Division will lead to more effectiveness and accountability for employers who mistreat workers and violate the law.

I hope you will support increased funding for BOLI, as that will have positive impacts on vulnerable Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ALBIES & STARK LLC



J. Ashlee Albies  
Attorney at Law