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May 7, 2019

TO: Chair Williamson  
Vice-Chair Gorsek  
Vice-Chair Sprenger  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Elliot Levin, PROTEC17 Research Director

RE: PROTEC17 Support for SB 726A, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

On behalf of the nearly 900 PROTEC17 represented employees of City of Portland, I write today to ask for your support for SB 726A. PROTEC17 represents a wide variety of professional and technical employees, including engineers, planners, information technology specialists, and technicians who live and work in the Portland area. Additionally, we represent approximately 8,000 public sector employees across Washington State.

PROTEC17 supports SB 726A because it would better protect workers that have faced discrimination in the workplace. We know that current laws don't go far enough to protect harassment victims at work, and that it takes more than a year for most victims to come forward because they feel shame and they fear retaliation. With 75% of women facing retaliation from a sexual harassment claim<sup>1</sup>, this is a legitimate fear. Workers in low wage industries are especially vulnerable as they are the most likely to face discrimination in the workplace and are the least likely to seek remedy. By expanding the statute of limitations that harassment allegations can be brought forward from one year to five years, we're giving all Oregon workers a fair shot at justice.

We thank you for your consideration, and respectfully ask that you join PROTEC17 in supporting SB 726A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliot Levin".

Elliot Levin  
Research Director and Legislative Advocate  
PROTEC17



[www.PROTEC17.org](http://www.PROTEC17.org)

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task\\_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf](https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf)