

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: May 9, 2019

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

From: Anonymous Victim 12

RE: Anonymous Victim 12 Support for SB 726A, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Members of the House Rules Committee:

I support SB 726A which 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 we support SB 726A because I have faced harassment in the workplace.

I work for the largest law enforcement agency in Portland. I was sexually harassed by two separate coworkers. One of them was my supervisor. Working in an environment that consists mostly of males, it was hard to report this behavior. Another supervisor found out what happened and told me as a supervisor he was going to report the sexual harassment.

During this time, I was interviewed by detectives, internal affairs, Oregon Department of Public Safety and Standards all while dealing with the death (suicide) of my five-year-old grandson's mother. I was in deep grief and before you know it time passed and I missed the statute of limitations. I still suffer to this day no matter how much time goes by.

Workplace harassment affected every aspect of my life because I was relying on this job to support myself and my family. When you have to go to work and face abuse, it takes away the dignity and respect that we all have the right to feel in the workplace but also takes away the dignity in supporting yourself. I simply wanted to go to work and not face harassment, so that I could put food on the table and live my life without fear.

I respectfully request the committee support SB 726 and commend the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state.