

February 19, 2020

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee

My name is Virginia and I have to tell my story in order for my voice to be heard. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4107 A.

Several months ago I went into a Walmart in Medford to pay my Pacific Power bill. I had the invoice that had my name and address on the bill. As I stood in line waiting for my turn at the counter, I added my phone number to the bill and circled the amount owed.

When the associate called me to the counter, I then approached her and gave her my electrical bill. She then asked me for my ID or Driver License in which I was confused as to why she would ask me since I have never been asked to show an ID in order to pay for any bill. She said that those were the new rules and that she was just following orders from her company. I told her that it did not make sense because I was paying cash.

I told her that why would someone pay a bill that did not belong to them or that there might be times were a family member or friend might go in and pay a bill as a favor. She said that she will not accept payment without proper ID and that she needed to help the next person in line. I insisted that I was paying cash but she was very rude towards me.

I speak English very well and thought to myself, imagine if there was a person that did not speak English and how difficult it would be for them to understand what was going on. The associate was an older white woman that was determined to not help me so, I asked to speak to her supervisor. The supervisor was also a white woman and she sided with the associate telling me that it was a new rule that Walmart was now enforcing and that they cannot process my payment without the ID. Once again I told them that I was paying cash.

I have a valid Oregon Driver License but I felt that I didn't need to show my ID in order to pay a bill in cash. My feeling was that they were totally discriminating against me because I'm a person of color. HB 4107 A would help me avoid these types of discrimination, I urge your support.